

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER

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AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

AUSTRALIA

JAPAN

Can the Aussies recover?

ERICSSON CUP - ROUND 19

TABLE

TOTAL								HOME								AWAY							
	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A		
Marconi Fairfield	40	19	12	4	3	37	19	Marconi Fairfield	10	6	3	1	19	11	Marconi Fairfield	9	6	1	2	18	8		
UTS Olympic	38	19	11	5	3	36	20	UTS Olympic	10	7	3	0	20	6	UTS Olympic	9	4	2	3	16	14		
Brisbane Strikers	35	19	11	2	6	34	21	Brisbane Strikers	9	7	1	1	27	6	Brisbane Strikers	10	4	1	5	7	15		
Sydney United	31	19	8	7	4	25	17	Sydney United	9	5	1	3	15	7	Sydney United	10	3	6	1	10	10		
West Adelaide	31	19	9	4	6	28	23	West Adelaide	10	7	1	2	17	9	West Adelaide	9	2	3	4	11	14		
Melbourne Knights	29	18	8	5	5	18	12	Melbourne Knights	9	6	1	2	11	4	Melbourne Knights	9	2	4	3	7	8		
Adelaide City	25	19	7	4	8	32	27	Adelaide City	10	4	3	3	20	10	Adelaide City	9	3	1	5	12	17		
Morwell Falcons	24	19	7	3	9	23	35	Morwell Falcons	8	4	0	4	12	14	Morwell Falcons	11	3	3	5	11	21		
South Melbourne	23	19	7	2	10	29	35	South Melbourne	10	5	2	3	21	15	South Melbourne	9	2	0	7	8	20		
Canberra Cosmos	20	19	5	5	9	28	31	Canberra Cosmos	10	3	4	3	18	14	Canberra Cosmos	9	2	1	6	10	17		
Newcastle Breakers	10	18	2	4	12	15	36	Newcastle Breakers	9	1	4	4	9	13	Newcastle Breakers	9	1	0	8	6	23		
Wollongong City	10	19	3	1	15	14	43	Wollongong City	9	2	0	7	6	15	Wollongong City	10	1	1	8	8	28		
W WIN 3 Points - D DRAW 1 Points - L LOSS 0																							

W WIN 3 Points - D DRAW 1 Points - L LOSS 0

RESULTS

CANBERRA COSMOS1 (Musitano 35)	WOLLONGONG CITY1 (Jermen 3)
BRISBANE STRIKERS2 (Ditton 10, Phillips 72)	SOUTH MELBOURNE1 (Coveny 43)
SYDNEY UNITED1 (S Babic 67)	MARCONI-FAIRFIELD4 (Hristodoulou 18, Awaritefe 34, 42, 62) Round 21 (Played 7-2-96)
UTS OLYMPIC2 (Poimer 51, Trajanovski 89)	ADELAIDE CITY5 (Mori 15, 37, 46, Foster 36, Hassell 36)
WEST ADELAIDE3 (Ndongo-Keller 21, 32, 67)	MORWELL FALCONS0

CROWDS

SEASON BEST: 13,956 - South Melbourne v West Adelaide - Round 9
ROUND 19 BEST: 9,170 Sydney United v UTS Olympic. TOTAL ROUND 19: 17,616
SEASON TOTAL: 504,085. AVERAGE PER MATCH: 4,460.

FANS CLUB BY CLUB

CLUB	TOTAL	MATCHES	AVERAGE
Souths	73834	10	7383
UTS Olympic	54433	10	5443
Ad City	47030	10	4703
Brisbane	42264	9	4696
Syd Utd	41602	9	4622
Melb Knights	39599	9	4399
Marconi	43291	10	4329
Newcastle	37804	9	4200
West Ad	39049	10	3905
Morwell	26917	8	3364
Canberra	33371	10	3337
Wollongong	29254	9	3250

- EACH CLUB'S BEST CROWD -

Souths	13956 v West Ad	R9
UTS Olympic	11145 v Marconi	R9
Ad City	9601 v West Ad	R17
Syd Utd	9170 v UTS Olympic	R19
West Ad	8284 v Ad City	R6
Marconi	8196 v Syd Utd	R10
Brisbane	7851 v Melb Knights	R16
Newcastle	6837 v UTS Olympic	R1
Melb Knights	6290 v Souths	R1
Canberra	5490 v Syd Utd	R2
Wollongong	5069 v UTS Olympic	R17
Morwell	4183 v Souths	R2

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS \$130

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LEADING GOALSCORERS

16	Damien Mori	(Adelaide City)
13	Kris Trajanovski	(UTS Olympic)
12	Frank Farina	(Brisbane Strikers)
10	Andrew Harper	(Marconi Fairfield)
9	Paul Wade	(Canberra Cosmos)
9	Francis Awaritefe	(Marconi Fairfield)
7	Rodney Brown	(Brisbane Strikers)
7	Ivan Kolic	(South Melbourne)
7	Paul Trimball	(South Melbourne)
7	Jim Tsekiniis	(West Adelaide)
6	Pablo Cardozo	(West Adelaide)
6	Bradley Hassell	(Adelaide City)
6	Warren Spink	(Morwell Falcons)
6	Kimón Talladores	(UTS Olympic)

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AUSTRALIA V JAPAN

Thomson prefers New Zealand referees

Goal hungry striker Joe Spiteri will line up in the return international against Japan to infuse punch and aggression into the Australian attack.

The game will be played tomorrow night (Wednesday) at the Bob Jane Stadium, Albert Park, Melbourne with a 7.30pm kick off.

Spiteri missed last Saturday's 4-1 defeat in Wollongong after tonsillitis put him out of action for three days.

Australia has not had four goals put into its net at international level since 1980 when Czechoslovakia posted 4-0 and 5-0 victories over the Socceroos.

"There will be three or four changes in the team. Spiteri and co-striker Warren Spink should be fit," said Socceroo coach Eddie Thomson.

The bustling Spiteri will probably replace John Markovski, who was unsuited by the fast pace of Saturday's game.

Thomson was still fuming over the performance of referee Brett Hugo who dismissed Australian midfielder Milan Blagojevic



Joe Spiteri: Will play in second game against Japan after recovering from illness.

three minutes into the second half and handed out a total of nine yellow cards.

"Give me the New Zealand referees. They seem to be better," was

Thomson's abrupt reply after the match. "Hugo slaughtered the

match and if the foul committed by Blagojevic was a send-off offence, I'll give the game away."

Japan, who are the Asian Cup champions, gave Thomson food for thought about Australia's 1998 World Cup plans.

Australia, if it wins Oceania, will have to meet the fourth-placed Asian team in a playoff for a place in the World Cup finals and Japan is expected to finish in the top four.

The Socceroos sadly missed their European-based stars and would undoubtedly have a much stronger lineup with Mark Bosnich, Robbie Slater, Aurelio Vidmar, Tony Vidmar, Ned Zelic, Steve Corica and Carl Veart back in the squad.

"The match showed the difference between the part-timers of the Ericsson Cup and the players who are full time professionals in Europe," said Thomson.

He praised the Australian backline pair of Alex Tobin and Tony Popovic and said they were outstanding.

Meanwhile, leading goalscorer Kazuyoshi Miura returns from suspension for Japan.

COACHES WANTED

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HISTORY CHASE A SUCCESS

Endeavour's to track down pre-war and post war artefacts on Western Australian soccer has been hailed a success by ABSW correspondent Richard Kreider who is currently in the process of producing a book to commemorate the state's one hundred years of organised soccer.

"The response to a notice that was recently placed in the local newspaper requesting photographs and memorabilia of our early years, has been overwhelming," said Kreider.

"The earliest pictures that I have, date back to 1912, and their condition is near perfect." The book will focus on how soccer was actually kicked-off, both in the Perth metropolitan area and the country regions.

It will review the junior and Sunday amateur side of the code, all league and cup honours, as well as the highs and many lows it has endured from day one. It will finish with WA's eventual Glory into entering the National League.

Kreider said he is still on the lookout for information relevant to WA soccer, and can be reached on telefax: (09) 479 7217. All material will be returned as soon as researching is completed.

Interstate series on the cards

Soccer Australia is considering an interstate championship to be staged over four weeks in July.

The tournament would involve all six states and the two territories.

"We are still committed to the championship this year but need to sort out the funding," said Soccer Australia chairman David Hill.

"I'm optimistic it will happen but we still have to sway some of the doubters on the board."

Hill said that soccer in Australia was in good shape especially at the grass roots level.

He said that approximately 200,000 people were playing

soccer in New South Wales, nearly one-third of the Australian total.

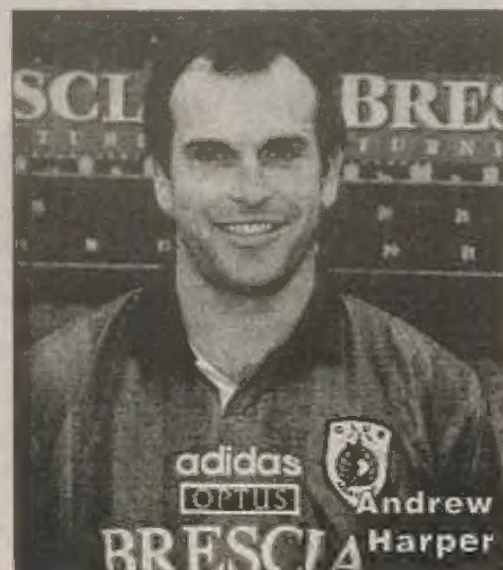
Hill was convinced that Australia would qualify for the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

He said Australia was not interested in qualifying for France as a fourth-seeded nation to be knocked out in the preliminary rounds.

"We must lift Australia higher in the rankings and get a better seeding," he said.

"The games against Japan and Sweden are directly relevant to how Australia will fare in the world cup."

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Bazic criticises Thomson's tactics

Former Melbourne Knights coach Mirko Bazic last week said national team boss Eddie Thomson was too defensive and the wrong man to guide Australia to the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

Bazic, who led the Knights to last year's National League title and discovered stars Mark Viduka and Danny Tiatto, said Thomson's defensive style of play was outdated and may not provide enough goals for Australia to make it to its second World Cup finals.

Bazic said former Adelaide City mentor Zoran Matic and current South Melbourne coach and ex-Socceroo boss Frank Arok would do a better job.

"His style is not modern soccer, it's too defensive. It's not true that Australia can't play offensive soccer because Australia has a couple of excellent strikers," Bazic said.

He said Thomson and Soccer Australia should look at the Croatian model where the country's head coach meets with league coaches two or three times a year to discuss tactics and ways to best utilise players.

The 57-year-old Bazic, who won the Australian coach of the year award in 1993-94, returned home to Croatia last week after guiding the Knights to 40 wins in 67 league games.



Mirko Bazic: Vows he will never return to Australia.

Health reasons — his blood pressure was rising to dangerous levels during matches — forced him to step down at the Knights.

In a two and a half year reign, Bazic took the Knights from the depths of the ladder to a grand final

appearance against Adelaide City in 1994 and the league and pre-season cup double last year while averaging more than two goals a game.

"My philosophy was that we had to play soccer like they do in Europe," Bazic told AAP shortly before his

departure.

"I tried the European style because it was best for soccer and for the fans."

When he first took over, the Knights did not have a player in the Australian team. They have since produced nine internationals including Steve Horvat, Frank Juric and Joe Spiteri.

Bazic's elation at seeing players develop under his tutelage led to his disenchantment of the local game as Australian selectors took away his best players for national duties during the domestic season.

Bazic became more frustrated this season when he lost more than half his team during Australia's trans-Tasman series against New Zealand.

After the Knights were beaten convincingly by Sydney United, Bazic accused Soccer Australia of "ruining my team" and was fined \$1000.

In Croatia, Bazic will be reunited with Viduka at Croatia Zagreb (Dinamo Zagreb), a club he guided to fifth, third and second in his three years as senior coach in 1975-77. He will work as a youth development officer.

Bazic vows he will never return to Australia to coach.

"I don't think my heart can take it anymore," Bazic said.

Internationals causing too much disruption

Former national coach Frank Arok has criticised the scheduling of Socceroo international matches and believes administrators are tampering too much with the National League.

Arok is dismayed that Soccer Australia has set down friendly matches against Japan and Sweden on weekends only a week after the Ericsson Cup took a month break to accommodate the Oceania Olympic qualifiers in Adelaide.

"I don't want to be rude but for God's sake we are really mucking up the domestic competition for some games of no relevance," said Arok, who coaches South Melbourne.

"If there is a legitimate competition, qualifications for the World Cup, the number one priority is the national team."

"But in every other situation the number one priority at the moment should be the national competition."

Several NSL games have been postponed during the next three weeks to cater for the four Socceroo internationals.

Australia's second game against Japan is at Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne tomorrow at 7.30pm.

The Socceroos then play Sweden at

Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane on Sunday, February 25 followed by a midweek encounter against the Swedes at Sydney Football Stadium on Wednesday, February 28. Kick off in Sydney is 7.30pm.

"I'm talking about us. We the clubs are in no situation to influence it. Never does anyone ask the coaches or the players," said Arok.

South Melbourne had only two players, Kevin Muscat and Paul Trimboli, selected for these internationals compared to Adelaide City's five representatives and three players from Marconi Fairfield and the Melbourne Knights.

Arok, however, said friendly matches should be played out-of-season during the winter months or, if necessary, always on a week night during the Ericsson Cup season.

"How on earth can you do something really significant if your players are playing on Saturday for the national team and then on Sunday they have to play for their own team," Arok said.

Arok said NSL clubs were also disadvantaged because their players could be away from team training for weeks when drafted into camps before internationals.



Frank Arok: Play friendly internationals out-of-season.

Auckland prepares Ericsson Cup bid

Auckland officials hope to unveil their bid for a place in next summer's expanded Australian National League this week.

The Australian Soccer Federation is believed to be increasing the number of teams in its league from 12 to either 14 or 16, and Soccer Auckland is among those bidding for inclusion.

Soccer Auckland briefed other associations in the northern region on its application during a meeting last Wednesday.

But Auckland chairman Bill Anderson was last week reluctant to make details of the bid public until key issues such as ground facilities, sponsorship and Soccer New Zealand (SNZ) approval had been settled.

Anderson is due to meet the SNZ council today (Tuesday) and expects to be in a position to make an announcement later this week.

He said SNZ approval would be the biggest hurdle, because the Australian league clashed with New Zealand's own summer league, which is in the first season of a three-year trial.

"Everyone agrees that the timing is not quite right and we are totally supportive of the summer league in New Zealand," he said.

"But sometimes in life opportunities come up and you have to take them."

Anderson said a sponsorship package still had to be finalised, but the likely home ground was Ericsson Stadium where the

Auckland Warriors rugby league club has its headquarters.

"It's the only stadium that meets the Australian league's criteria and we have had a lot of support and help from the Warriors," he said.

While the Warriors' entry into the Winfield Cup last year created such huge interest that attendances at other league matches in New Zealand suffered, Anderson was confident that would not be the case with soccer.

"We are in this because we believe it will only help in promoting and lifting the profile of the game in New Zealand," he said.

"We would be looking at taking matches out of Auckland to other parts of New Zealand and so on."

He also doused fears that a successful Auckland submission would lead to top players deserting the country's other clubs to sign up with the prospect of top competition every week. "With 10 national league teams, that is an average of only 1-1/2 players a team," he said.

When an Auckland entry was first suggested last year, SNZ was firmly opposed, while Oceania Confederation president Charlie Dempsey expressed reservations.

World soccer's governing body FIFA is against teams playing in another country's league, although one prime example of cross-border competition is the inclusion of Welsh clubs in the English league.

Soccer Australia chairman David Hill will meet with the AFL tomorrow (Wednesday) to pave the way for an Australian Rules club to field a side in next season's National League.

Hill has arranged a meeting with AFL football operations manager Ian Collins, who is against the idea of clubs assisting soccer.

The AFL has warned Collingwood, Carlton, Essendon and Richmond, who are at various stages in their plans to enter teams in the Ericsson Cup, that they would contravene their licences by becoming involved in another football code.

But Hill last week assured Collins that the round ball game was not a threat to Australian Rules' existence.

"I was at pains to point out that we were certainly flattered that soccer is seen as a threat to AFL but we don't see it that way," said Hill.

"We don't think that national league soccer is a competitor with the AFL but a very attractive complement to it."

Soccer Australia is increasing the number of



David Hill: Thinks that soccer and AFL are complementary.

teams in its league from 12 to either 14 or 16 and Hill is keen to include teams without ethnic backgrounds.

"We haven't decided who's successful yet but you would have to say on principle the idea of these clubs participating in the national soccer league is

good for soccer and it's good for AFL clubs," Hill said.

"We're not saying that they're going to get up and the others won't, we still haven't finished that process. But there's no hiding the fact that the very high levels of interest from the major AFL clubs we've welcomed."

"For soccer, we are quite unapologetic about striving to make soccer more mainstream as a sport and as part of Australian society."

"It's been not only my observation but also of others that in Melbourne, of all the cities in Australia, soccer is more multicultural than ethnocentric than any other city and a lot of that has to do with the absolute domination of AFL in terms of football in Melbourne."

Hill said league clubs would benefit because they would be able to use their facilities during summer for soccer and generate all year round revenue.

Hill disputed Collins' warning that Australian Rules clubs could be threatened by a struggling soccer team.

"I don't think it would be a liability, and in any event you would have to say this about any big AFL club, they're extremely professionally-managed and they're not going to buy into a dud," said Hill.

"Some of these AFL clubs have just about the best sporting trademarks in the world and they're not going to put that at undue risk."

AUSTRALIA V JAPAN

Australia suffer heaviest defeat against Japan

AUSTRALIA 1
JAPAN 4

BY BOB BROOKS

Before a good sized, but strangely subdued crowd on Saturday night in Wollongong, Japan achieved its highest score against Australia when they won by four goals to one.

Japan had only beaten Australia once before, by 3 goals to 1, in nine previous encounters.

The question must be asked if there are sufficient high quality players left in

Australia to put an international team on the park. Has the overseas exodus so weakened the home standard that maybe the Soccerroo teams should be known as an Australian XI?

Records show that it is necessary to go back to 1985 in Adelaide to find a similar score-line with Red Star, Belgrade the opponents.

Damian Mori came close in the fourth minute when a neat Paul Trimbole ball found him on the edge of the goal area. Mori shot well, beat 'keeper Kazuya Maekawa, but put the ball wide of the far post.

Australia dominated the opening exchanges but during this period Alex Tobin was called on, as the last man in defence, to pull off a timely tackle to break down a dangerous attack.

With ten minutes to go to the break the visitors took the lead. They were awarded a free kick 35 metres out.

The slight midfielder, Hiroshi Nanami rolled the ball about three metres sideways for Motohiro Yamaguchi to fire in a powerful, all-along the ground shot which left Frank Juric groping.



Motohiro Yamaguchi: Opened the scoring for Japan with smart free-kick.

Two minutes later a weak punch-out by Juric created a golden opportunity for Masami Ihara. The most capped Japanese defender shot for goal from outside the box. Fortunately for the Soccerroos Tobin headed off the line. At the second attempt Ihara's shot was well

saved by the Australian custodian.

Australia stormed upfield with enterprising Tony Popovic providing a delicate chip for John Markovski to run on to. His shot beat Maekawa but it was the turn of Japan through Yamaguchi to clear off the line.

Francis Awaritefe came on for Markovski for the second stanza. However one minute in disaster struck Australia.

Milan Blagojevic who had an ordinary first half was adjudged by referee Brett Hugo to have unfairly brought down an opponent. Hugo issued a yellow card and then the red as Blagojevic had already received a first half booking.

Juric hoofed a huge clearance well into Japan territory. Awaritefe powered forward and was on his way to goal when he appeared to

be tripped inside the area. The referee waived play on.

With an hour on the clock Australia's defence were caught napping as Takaya Takagi weaved his way through. From the edge of the penalty area and to the right he hit home a screamer all along the ground.

Three minutes on Paul Wade got on the end of an Alex Tobin powerfully hit free kick. Wade's header went agonisingly wide.

Takagi put away his second of the night and his sixteenth for Japan as Juric could only parry the ball and the goal-ace followed up to put away number three.

Australia pulled one back moments later as late substitute Goran Lozanovski won the ball in the middle of the park, drew the defence and fed a superb ball to the unmarked Awaritefe. He



Takaya Takagi: Proved dangerous to Australia and scored two.

made no mistake with his well-angled shot. This was all too late with only two minutes to go.

The 1-3 score-line was bad enough but worse was to follow when a long speculative shot by Hajime Moriyasu was allowed to go under his body by the

unfortunate Juric.

It is to be hoped that Australia can recover from this humiliation before Wednesday (tomorrow) in Melbourne, at the Bob Jane Stadium with a 7.30pm kick off.

AUSTRALIA: F. Juric, M. Bingley, R. Hooker, M. Ivanovic (J. Polak 70), T. Popovic, A. Tobin, P. Wade, M. Blagojevic, D. Mori, J. Markovski (F. Awaritefe HT), P. Trimboli (G. Lozanovski 70).

JAPAN: K. Maekawa, H. Yanagimoto (Y. Honda H.T.), M. Ihara, N. Soma, N. Omura, M. Yamaguchi, H. Moriyasu, T. Kitazawa, H. Nanami (T. Nakamura 80), T. Takagi, M. Okano.

SCORERS: Australia: Awaritefe (87). Japan: M. Yamaguchi (35), T. Takagi (60, 85), H. Moriyasu (89). CROWD: 8,396

Full-time contract for Ratcliffe

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

David Ratcliffe, current coach of UTS Olympic, is about to sign a full-time, three year contract.

This will be the first time in Olympic's 18 year history that one of the League's most volatile Clubs has employed a full-time coach on a long term basis.

The giant Sydney club that had been harnessed with the notorious stigma of hiring and firing coaches with monotonous regularity in the early days of the NSL between 1977 and 1983, is stepping out in the right direction with this arrangement.

Ratcliffe, who was appointed last April, became coach No.20 on the books of Sydney Olympic. Olympic

president, Jim Kelaiditis proudly beamed to ABSW last night, "As you know I have been a great David Ratcliffe fan over many years, since the days when he played for St George as well as Australia.

"I brought 'Bronson' to Olympic this season and since he's been here he has done a top job for us.

"Under David, Olympic have led the League for 11 weeks. He still has us in a strong position, seriously challenging for our second national championship.

"Since coming to our Club, he has not only brought new ideas and discipline, but has instilled a no-nonsense attitude that has inspired great stability that unfortunately has been sadly lacking," ended Mr



David Ratcliffe: Olympic's initial full-time coach.

Kelaiditis. The new fulltime three

year contract with Olympic, which came into force on the first of February, has allowed Ratcliffe the luxury of tossing in his very early morning job as a bread vendor to concentrate all his energies on Soccer in saner hours.

The tenacious ex-Australian World Cup centre-back, aged 38, when contacted late last night, seemed quietly pleased with his new contracted position at Olympic.

"We have many young players here that haven't really been looked after correctly over the years.

"I've already started holding three morning training sessions every week which has been a big help.

"There is so much work to do and full-time seems to be

the only answer," ended Ratcliffe.

Ratcliffe migrated from Bradford, Yorkshire where he played for City, to play in Queensland with Brisbane City in the National League.

In the early 80s Ratcliffe's hard-marking style of play soon attracted the attention of some of the big clubs in Sydney. He was eventually snapped up by St George.

Ratcliffe soon graduated into the Australia side where he was always assigned the unenviable task of shackling some of the world's ace-strikers.

Frank Worthington, (Manchester United) Paolo Rossi (Juventus), Kenny Dalglish (Scotland), and Trevor Francis (England) were all earmarked for Ratcliffe's attention.

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CONTACTS: Nick Porreca on
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Giants of Japan's J-League

GAME 1

ST GEORGE SAINTS v AVISPA FUKUOKA
(Australia) (Japan)

February 16, 1996 — 7.00pm

St George Stadium — Barton Park, Rockdale

GAME 2

ST GEORGE SAINTS v JUBILO IWATA
(Australia) (Japan)

February 22, 1996 — 7.00pm

St George Stadium — Barton Park, Rockdale

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ROUND 2

SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

St George Saints v Warringah Dolphins

St George Stadium, 6.00pm

Central Coast v Rockdale City Suns

Pluim Park, 6.00pm

Blacktown City v Sutherland Sharks

Gabbie Stadium, 6.00pm

SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

Illawarra Lions v Adamstown Rosebud

Brandon Park, 5.00pm

Canterbury Berries v Bonnyrigg White Eagles

Serbian Centre, 5.00pm

Macarthur Rams v Leichhardt Tigers

Lynwood Park, 5.00pm

Parramatta Eagles v Bankstown City Lions

Melita Stadium, 6.30pm

SOCCER NSW INFORMATION SERVICE

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BOUQUETS AND BRICKBATS

Dear Sir,
With the festive season over and a new year in its genesis, it's time to review 1995 with a few brickbats and bouquets.

First, large bouquets must go to:

■ David Hill and his new administration. It hasn't all been plain sailing but the signs are great. Crowds are increasing and the game's profile is at an all-time high. I'm even seeing National League highlights on commercial television. Outrageous! Keep up the good work.

■ Frank Farina (to a lesser degree Jim Patikas and Dominic Longo). It's great to see seasoned pros back to where they started. Their presence can only improve the standard of the league and left its profile. Frank even has a weekly slot on Queensland's Channel 7 news. Let's hope they are leading the way for others to return.

■ The Brisbane Strikers. By securing Frank Farina, a major (and high profile) sponsor and a new stadium they are setting the example for the code. Their games are soundly promoted, offer prizes for fans and are well patronised. All in all a great family night.

■ South Melbourne for their great new stadium.

■ Canberra Cosmos. The league's supposed no-hopers have been very competitive. Where did they find that Maustano fellow?

■ Paul Wade. Great book and from has-been to one of the country's leading scorers. 'Nuff said.

■ Damian Mori. For THAT goal. For a short time Australia was at the centre of the world game.

■ The Perth franchise. An interesting beginning. Let's hope you live up to the name.

■ All our players overseas who are doing so well. Just remember to come back when your country calls.

Second, brickbats need to be sent to:

■ The editorial writer at "The Greek Herald" for being so vitriolic in calling for Mr Hill's resignation. I'll forward a cheque to your offices so that you can buy a large spatula to remove the copious amounts of egg on your face.

■ The coach and players of Sydney United for their over-the-top reaction to John Perosh's injury (incidentally caused by the defender not Awaritefe who clearly got the ball). Get a grip fellas.

■ Johnny Warren for describing Perosh's injury as "the most horrific thing he'd seen at a soccer game." Come on Johnny don't tell me you've never seen limbs broken and nasty head clashes, unfortunate incidents but part of any contact sport. I saw a streaker at a cricket game one. Now that was horrifying!

■ South Melbourne for having a weird sponsor — SMH — emblazoned on their seats. Why would a Sydney newspaper sponsor a Melbourne team? Maybe SMH stands for something else. When clubs should be progressing and broadening their supporter base, they wouldn't turn the clock back would they? Would they?

■ John Economos for his irritating use of double adjectives to describe players every time. As energetic and highly influential as he is... aaah! See what I mean!

■ Croatian Corner — are players from that part of the world really the ten foot tall, bullet proof heroes that the author conveys ad nauseam? ABSW doesn't need this chauvinism.

Third, a special bouquet to ABSW keep up the good work, in 1996.

Stephen Plummer, Caloundra, Qld.

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

The Editor,
AUSTRALIAN &
BRITISH SOCCER
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Scoring celebrations called into question

Dear Sir,
I felt compelled to write after reading recent weeks' "Letters".

Remember the furore when Mark or Marko Viduka displayed a Croatian emblem captains arm band when representing Australia in the lead up to the latest World Youth Cup.

Remember also how he celebrated each and every goal he scored for his then NSL team Melbourne Knights.

Headless chook seducing fabric of left breast is not unreminiscent. Remember last week in Adelaide for the Olympic qualifying tournament when he scored for Australia. You almost did not know it was the same person.

It is no longer an honour to represent your country, rather the honour is owed to somewhere else?

Can anybody explain these actions by Mark or Marko?

Another observation: Like P. Russo I generally ignore the petty feuding bickerings between Viskovich and Metallinos and agree with Russo's sentiments this time.

This week I was inspired to read the article, suitably inspired by P. Russo.

I was right the first time. Nothing changes. First item Croatia appears five times, Zagreb five also. (Reader you count the repetitions in the remaining items and



Mark Viduka: Promising Australian striker.

Hajduk appears no less than 16 times).

Where is the journalistic artistry from the author to prevent such mundane repetition. Also on accuracy: Hajduk Go Bosnian states Steve Horvat is to make way for the new player (implication is that Horvat is dropped).

In Brief states Horvat could well become left back. Whilst I do not really care that much, which one is accurate?

I feel that ABSW readers would be better served with the deletion of the Croatian Corner and by its author becoming more adept at reporting interesting stories.

I thought the Henry Wiggler article on the triumvirate organisations to be spot on. In the NSW State League competition: Where is the former Avala as a suburb? Where is Illinden as a suburb?

I have found Canterbury and Bankstown but cannot find Macedonia. Readers (and Soccer Australia and Soccer NSW) it is frightening to visit these locations as a supporter of this great game.

The baying of some home supporters at certain grounds is frightening. I imagine the good guys faced something akin way back in the Colosseum days.

I also know that referees communicate with the home team players in a native tongue which is not Australian.

To the authorities: something must be done about this situation. The grounds I mention are not venues which one would willingly take a family for a pleasant outing.

Sadly, these situations do not appear anywhere at League, Union or AFL locations.

Therefore, I can only conclude that the teams are their own worst enemies compounded by gross ineptitude by the teams' management and the responsible authorities.

Like P. Russo...I am calm now...I feel much better.

L.W. Riches,
Dee Why, NSW.

Taking soccer into Oz mainstream

Dear Sir,

As SA develops its strategy to make soccer into a mainstream sport, a very tall order by any assessment, perhaps they should compere notes with the people who devised and developed One Day Cricket in Australia.

Every season the crowds and interest in the "One Dayers" just gets bigger and bigger while at the same time interest and crowds at traditional cricket even Test matches decline or at best stagnate especially outside of Melbourne.

One day cricket has flourished despite being constantly denounced by the game's traditionalists and in my opinion if it were not for widespread interest in One Day Cricket crowds at traditional cricket would have declined to such a low level outside of Melbourne it would not be regarded as a major spectator sport anymore but rather a major recreational players sport only. If this sounds familiar then you can see the connection with Oz soccer.

As far as SA plans for the National League and Oz soccer overall. While it is still hard to define their exact strategy it does appear they intend to de ethnicise the National League as much as is possible (a high risk move).

They also intend to run the National League on a move professional business-like basis. basketballisation is perhaps the right term to describe it.

If they intend the National League to be modelled on the English Premier League or some other overseas league and be successful they will have to overcome the Golden Rule of Oz Soccer Syndrome.

I do not pretend to have the solution to the riddle of making the National League acceptable to mainstream Oz. But one thing I am certain of is that to have any chance of success, SA will have to tailor soccer to suit the taste of the Oz public and not the other way round.

If you look at what the Packer group did when they transformed Oz cricket you will realise this is exactly the approach they adopted when they introduced One Day Cricket despite opposition from cricket traditionalists and the establishment.

Unfortunately SA does not have the same freedom of control that the Packer group has over Oz cricket. SA must contend with the restrictions of FIFA, strong opposition to any change from many influential coaches and players, as well as a small but very noisy band of self styled guardians of soccer's values and traditions.

To fulfil David Hills prophesy to make soccer a mainstream Australian sport they will have to avoid throwing the baby out with the bath water, a very tricky task. As is obvious for all to see Oz soccer on the field is better than ever in the key area of developing local talent and that is because the existing system works very well.

Off the field is where the problems lie, but they cannot be fixed at the expense of the on field progress.

Finally I wish I had a dollar for every prediction I have read or heard made by prominent people over the last 35 years. They have predicted the imminent triumph of soccer in Australia and if they are still around I wonder if they still have any connection with the game.

I could answer my own question but it could be embarrassing to the people concerned if that were possible.

R. Melor,
Bondi, NSW.

Money well spent

Dear Sir,
In last weeks edition I found H. Wiggler's article "Expensive Pantomime", ABSW, 6.02.96 very amusing. Who cares how much it cost, at least FIFA spent money on Oceania, which gave Vanuatu, Fiji and Solomon Islands some exposure for a change.

Also, H. Wiggler must not like black players or Kiwis as he said "they were amateurs and didn't deserve even that status", talk about being negative.

Be positive for a change, give those players a break. They gave their best and unfortunately the Aussies thrashed their pants off.

Anyway, from what I saw I believe in the next five years Australian Soccer clubs will be bringing the best players of Fiji,

Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and don't forget Papua New Guinea into their squads which would improve the standards of those players and bring a new dimension into the Ericsson Cup.

Furthermore, I believe there is a huge untapped market for David Hill to explore. That is the Aboriginal market.

I think that Soccer Australia should set up clinics for young Aborigines to come and play soccer and at the same time use players such as Francis Awaritefe, Ransford Banini, Cyril Ndongo-Keller, Gerry Gomez and Manis Lamond to show young Aboriginal kids that they can play in the big time.

G. Vicente,
Avondale Heights, Vic.

Broncos bid denied

Dear Sir,

The following is an extract from the Sunday Mail (Brisbane), 4.2.96 p.88, and includes some insightful comment from Paul Morgan, Brisbane Broncos Chairman, and Chief Executive of Pacific Sports Entertainment, owner of Brisbane Broncos, Brisbane Bullets, Brisbane Bandits and a host of other sporting identities. He is a highly respected businessman and sports management executive.

ROUND BALL BID NOT ON

THE Broncos are not about to drop the ball and give soccer a go.

Club officials confirmed yesterday they were not in the running to join fellow rugby league giants Manly and the AFL's Essendon in bidding to field a team in Australia's national soccer competition — the A League.

Rumours that the Broncos were behind a Brisbane bid in Soccer Australia's list of prospects to join the A League in 1996-97 were a case of mistaken identity, according to club chairman Paul "Porky" Morgan.

The bid actually is from Brisbane Sports Club, based in Mitchelton.

Morgan said his company Pacific Sports

Broncos chief calls for soccer changes

Entertainment — owners of the Broncos — remained interested in expanding into soccer, but only if the code made radical changes.

Morgan believes there should be fewer teams in the national competition, more emphasis on one team-one City and greater involvement in Asia.

"People have been confusing the Broncos with Pac Sports," Morgan said.

"Pac Sports is still looking hard at involvement in soccer, but not in its current

format.

"The rugby league world considers 10 teams the ultimate in Australia. Soccer should have eight, with no more than one team in each city.

"Australian soccer has to get rid of the ethnic clubs, and it must be part of Asia. The competition just is not there in Oceania.

"Soccer is like a disease in Asia, they are throwing many millions of dollars into developing the game.

"For instance, China has only 12 professional teams, and they are importing European stars who are building up the strength of the local players. That is the sort of scene Australia should be involved in."

R. Shepard, Taringa, Qld.

Loss of no consequence

Canberra Cosmos coach Mike Lyons defended his team's 3-1 loss last Wednesday against Japanese team Gamba Osaka, saying midweek friendly games were hardly contests he could ask his players to go out and die for.

"I realise that before Canberra was in the A league these annual games were about the most important things on their calendar," Lyons said.

"But times have changed — my priority has to be the game against Brisbane Strikers on Saturday (February 11).

On the positive side, Lyons was pleased with the performance of talented youngster Alex Castro, gradually rehabilitating himself after a lengthy injury.

"He needs to control his temper a little more, but he has a really strong will to win," Lyons said.

The Cosmos' Tony



Lemezina had the first real chance of the game when a cross from Michael Musitano found him with a sight at goal — but the prolific scorer mistimed his shot and sent the ball high over the bar.

Paul Dee had an outstanding game for the Cosmos. He drew a free kick on the right, then keyed the ball through Musitano whose cross found Lemezina and goalkeeper Kenji Honnami in an aerial contest — Honnami managing to punch the ball away.

Then it was Dee again, his cross finding Marko Perinovic who headed hard and just wide of the upright.

Osaka's strikes were

came from imported player Vjekoslav Skrinjar playing an attacking midfield role, and it was no surprise when he opened the scoring in the 34th minute with a fierce drive into the top corner of the net that left goalkeeper Anthony Giannasca groping.

Five minutes later, Musitano, at the other end of the field, tried to copy Skrinjar's effort, but Honnami made a superb diving save to push the ball round the post for a useless corner.

The Cosmos sank deeper into trouble in the second half when Richard Watson, under a period of intense pressure, headed an Osaka corner into his own net.

Cosmos crumbled and it was no surprise when substitute Yoshiyuki Matsuyama made it 3-0 after 73 minutes.

Veteran Gus Cerro scrambled a consolation goal for Cosmos two minutes from time.



Gus Cerro: Put away consolation goal in friendly.

BRISBANE STRIKERS

Guaranteed exclusivity till 2000

BY GLENN DAVIS

The Strikers are unlikely to face opposition from any rival club in Brisbane with national ambitions at least until the year 2000.

That is the period Strikers officials were told by Soccer Australia when given the original franchise to run a Brisbane team in the wake of the demise of Brisbane United.

Speculation on a second Brisbane club surfaced recently when Brisbane Sports Club identified itself

as one of 11 organisations who have nominated for entry into the 1996-97 Ericsson Cup competition.

Soccer Australia have not revealed club names, apart from saying there was one from Brisbane, three from Sydney, five from Melbourne and one from New Zealand.

Brisbane Sports club spokesman Paul Novak was quoted in a Brisbane Sunday newspaper report recently confirming they were the Brisbane nominee and would play, if accepted, at ANZ Stadium.

It's widely believed in



some soccer circles that a second Brisbane club could be accommodated only if Brisbane Strikers continue their current success.

"We have been told there will be one franchise for the foreseeable future," Brisbane Striker director Frank Speare said in the

report.

"Soccer Australia is happy with how the Strikers are operating."

Novak also confirmed Mitchelton Soccer club was part of the Brisbane SC push, providing a junior base with financial support coming from a business consortium backed by Sydney property developers A H Abbott.

Novak also is understood to have spoken with local company Pacific Sports Entertainment regarding marketing.

Meanwhile Premier

League club Rochdale Rovers also is eyeing the national competition but won't get involved until at least 1998 once the club becomes financially viable.

"We want to compete in National League, not just make up the numbers," said Rochdale president Geoff Millward.

"We would be ready when we have a net annual turnover of \$1m. Last year the figure was \$330,000.

"We start renovations in two years and when that is achieved we should be turning over our target figure," the report said.

SYDNEY UNITED

Popovic keen to play overseas



Tony Popovic: Played one game in three weeks at Leeds because of big freeze.

Socceroo defender Tony Popovic last week stressed he was still determined to play overseas despite missing out on a contract with English premier club Leeds United but said he would stay in Australia for the remainder of the current season.

The cultured Sydney United centre back returned home on February 2 after spending three weeks on trial with the famous Yorkshire club.

The Crows captain said he still dreamt of playing overseas but emphasised his immediate priority was presently focusing on Australia's four internationals this month against Japan and Sweden.

"I will play out the rest of the season here and if something comes up in the off-season, I will go over,"



said Popovic, 22.

"I don't really want to go and trial anymore. There's a few clubs that are talking to my club at the moment."

Popovic was reluctant to reveal which clubs were interested in him but stressed he wanted to join one which suited his style of play.

"Leeds play a flat back four where they are just man on man and they don't play with a sweeper, so

they don't build up a lot from the back.

"I like to get involved with the play and receive the ball. Many English clubs just play man on man and the only time the defender touches the ball is when he wins it.

"That really doesn't suit me, so I didn't fit in to that system at Leeds."

England's big freeze restricted him to just one reserve grade game with Leeds.

"I got along with all of the players and I felt comfortable there but unfortunately it didn't work out.

"Leeds first team coach Howard Wilkinson said that I did well but he wanted someone that could just come in the team straight away and he didn't think I was ready at the moment to do that."

Wilson itching to get back

BY JAI MCDERMOT

Newcastle Breakers dynamic left flanker Gary Wilson is itching to return to first team duties in the Ericsson Cup.

Having spent the last two months on the Novocastrians lengthy injury list, Wilson's imminent return is a major bonus for Kosmina's young squad.

A chronic groin injury finally stopped the midfielder prior to Christmas last year and he underwent the surgeon's knife in January.

"The operation was a success. It seems to have relieved all of the pain I had before, so hopefully that's the last of it."

Wilson has spent his layoff working feverishly to maintain and improve his fitness: "I've been swimming since just after the operation as part of the rehab.

I've recently gotten back into running and training with the squad as well as two morning's a week doing light fitness and ballwork."

The 24 year old midfielder made his much awaited return last week in the youth side: "I felt really good in the first half until I got a knock.

It was pretty annoying because I had to come off but I've been getting physio every day and things are improving really quickly."

Whilst Wilson is keen to fight his way back into Kosmina's ever improving line-up, he realises the dangers of rushing back before fully fit.

The return of Newcastle to this year's revamped National League has been a godsend to Wilson, whose break into top level football was cruelly interrupted by the Breakers omission in 1994-5.



Gary Wilson: Groin operation proved successful.

From round one Wilson had been an important figure in the first team line-up offering width and potency to the Newcastle attack.

He is another of the local products plying his trade with the Newcastle Breakers.

Having spent his formative years with local club Edgeworth he became an integral part of the Highfields Azzurri squad which dominated Northern New South Wales football throughout the late eighties and early nineties.

Wilson says that "the crowd has been really good to us this season, their support has been great.

For the local players the support has been very helpful as we have all had to make a big step into the National League. Mostly it's just getting adjusted to the pace but it is a big jump in standard."

With the Breakers rapid improvement since the Ericsson Cup recess the return of Wilson is yet another positive for Kosmina's side.

Breakers fans will be hoping for a full and speedy recovery for the exciting left winger whose return to the playing field should make the Breakers a more incisive force.

Wilson too will be hoping to regain his place in the first team and to build on the progress he has made so far this season.

WOLLONGONG

Youngsters come and go at Brandon

BY PHIL MURPHY

Goalkeeper Steve Angelov has parted company with Wolves and could go to Morwell. The 20-year-old became disillusioned with Wollongong when he was dropped from number two to third choice behind number one keeper Brett Hughes.

Australian Institute of Sport graduate and former schoolboy international Trinity Allen became Hughes backup.

Angelov said he asked coach Nick Theodorakopoulos where he stood. "He made it pretty clear to me that I didn't have a future at Brandon Park," the keeper said.

"I have no axe to grind with the club but I would have liked to have stuck around Wollongong.

"My options at the moment could be at Morwell or even a trial with a Singapore club.

"I had a good job with Telstra in Wollongong and I could get a transfer to the Morwell area.

"Morwell's first choice keeper is Jim Kouritis but he has a hand injury and the club doesn't have a recognised backup. If I am able to get a trial in Singapore that would be great as my aim is to play overseas if I get a chance." Angelov arrived in Wollongong at the start of last season after three years with Newcastle.

He made only one senior appearance when Hughes was suspended.

Last year, he answered an SOS from the Australian team during the World Youth Championships in Qatar.

Meantime, goalkeeper coach Ron Corry has been very impressed with Allen.

The youngster gained a lot from his time at the AIS and Corry believes he could have a big future.

Recent Wolves signing Ian Pollari had the choice between Brandon Park and a series of trials in Germany.

The 20-year-old decided he should try to become established in the Ericsson Cup before he tried his luck in Europe.



Ian Pollari: Decided to become established in Australia.

after the youth championships and was scheduled to return there early this year.

Pollari said after talking with his parents, he decided it would be in his interests to join Wollongong.

"I have settled in well at Wollongong, the players are a great bunch and the people have been very honest with me," Pollari said.

"Hopefully we can start getting a few points and move away from the bottom of the table.

"Wollongong have a very good setup and the supporters deserve better results."

Wollongong coach Nick Theodorakopoulos has a high opinion of teenager Steve Laybutt.

The striker is a product of the Albion Park (Wollongong) junior club, and recently graduated from the Australian Institute of Sport.

Since returning to Brandon Park, Laybutt has played a number of youth league matches.

Theodorakopoulos was considering taking Laybutt to Adelaide for last Sunday's clash against West Adelaide.

"I have a high opinion of the player," Theodorakopoulos said.

"His attitude at training has been very good, he did well in a senior trial against Bonnyrigg and is certainly built to do well as a striker."



ADELAIDE CITY

Chameleon-like Zebras disappoint coach

BY PETER KRUPKA

John Perin launched a scathing attack on his players following last week's contrasting National League results which left fans wondering which team was the real Adelaide City.

Following a 7-1 hammering at the hands of Brisbane Strikers, the Zebras returned to Hindmarsh last Wednesday night and demolished Morwell 5-0.

The Brisbane result equalled the worst ever defeat of the proud club and two days before the Morwell thrashing rumours were rife that Perin had been sacked.

One radio station broadcast the unfounded rumour and a television station said the club was holding a crisis meeting on the Monday to decide the coach's fate.

Perin said he was totally happy with club officials who fully supported him but could not hide his anger at his players despite their impressive showing against the Falcons.



"I'm very happy with the board who are 120 per cent behind me but I'm disappointed with the players," Perin said.

"I'm disappointed with their attitude and disappointed with their commitment to the club and the game.

"If they can do it one week (perform as they did against Morwell), they can do it for 12 weeks.

"It's not all about winning. It doesn't matter if we lose — just put the effort in.

"We've only had two or three players prepared to work and the others just want to be pansies."

Perin said rumours of his sacking came from the same group of people inside the club who

wanted former coach Zoran Matic sacked around the same time last year.

He criticised several of his more senior players who he said had failed to take more responsibility in the wake of the club having lost key players during the off-season.

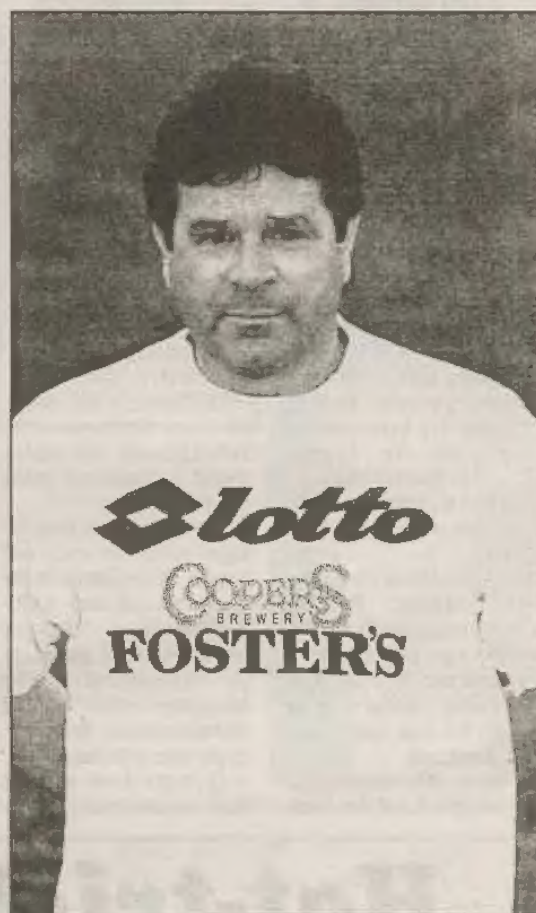
"They knew it was going to be a tough season. It was okay when they had Tony Vidmar and Sergio Melta and a few other senior players around but you take them out and the other players have to do a bit more work and they don't like it."

"It's a lack of character and it's not going to be acceptable."

While the season was still young and Perin confident his team would make the finals, he warned his players the club was bigger than the individuals.

"We want everyone to stay (next season) but they have to be more committed to the club and want to stay," he said.

"The club's not going to bend over for any players."



John Perin: "It's not all about winning, just put the effort in."

WEST ADELAIDE

National duties high priority

BY PETER KRUPKA

West Adelaide coach Raul Blanco has praised the club for its commitment to the Australian national team saying the club's leaders had an exemplarily attitude to the development of the country's international soccer stars.

A candidate for the prized job of full-time Olyroo coach, Blanco said no matter what the future held for him he would never forget the way the Sharks had supported Australian soccer by helping him in his role as assistant coach to Australian sides in recent years.

Blanco, assistant to national coach Eddie Thomson and a part-time member of the national coaching staff for the past 14 years, was one of four people interviewed for the Olyroo job last Tuesday.

While many observers believed he was favourite to take the job, Blanco insisted



he was no certainty. The modest former Argentinian preferred to highlight the work his club has done over the years to support the profile of Australian soccer on an international level.

"They are one club that put the national team and national duties above themselves — it's a tremendous quality," Blanco said.

"In the past the club has always given me the okay (to assist Thomson) and they have done it with pleasure.

"It is so easy to look after yourself and the club could easily have said I have an obligation to the club (and stopped me). It would be easy for anyone to



Raul Blanco: Believes club is on right track for big things.

understand that but they are phenomenal."

UTS Olympic coach David

Ratcliffe, NSW coach Steve O'Connor and Victorian Premier League coach Ken

Murphy have all been short-listed for the job which was created when the Australian Sports Commission identified soccer as a potential medal prospect for the 2000 Olympics.

Blanco decided to apply for the position after being given permission by the Sharks' board led by club President Harry Zacharyannis.

"He gave me his blessing and the committee's blessing to go ahead and apply for the job," Blanco said.

"They have been absolutely outstanding. It doesn't matter if I get the job or not, these are things you don't forget."

Now in his fourth season at the Sharks, Blanco has put the club on track to being a solid National League club for years to come.

The bulk of the players from the regular first team side are in their early 20s and, with or without Blanco, big things could happen at West Adelaide.

"The club is on the right track. We can go on and now," he said.

MATCH REPORTS

ERICSSON CUP



Olympic win in stoppage time

**SYDNEY
UNITED 1
UTS
OLYMPIC 2**

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

UTS Olympic, despite fielding a depleted side, showed unyielding character and commitment to drive on well into stoppage time to defeat a well-organised Sydney United 2-1 last Sunday night at the Sydney Croatian Sports Centre.

The loss severely dented the home side's aspirations for the League Championship as United was left stunned. It was Trajanovski again who in Round 1 got Olympic out of jail with two very late goals well after normal time to steal a 2-2 draw after United had dominated.

With the scoreboard showing 1-1 and the clock

SCORERS: United: S. Babic (69), Poimer (51). Olympic: Trajanovski (89).
YELLOW CARDS: United: Plesa (17), Rudan (62), Zdrilic (70), Milicic (72), Enes (88). Olympic: Ardane (39), Poimer (42), Meredith (74), Barrett (84).
POY: 3-A. Ciantar
2-Bouhoutsos
1-Taliadoros
CROWD: 9,170
REFEREE: S. Micallef

ticking away, the match looked well and truly ending in a draw.

But a great cross from the right by centre-back and skipper Davie Barrett to the back post found hard-working Kimon Taliadoros heading across the goals back to Trajanovski who promptly and characteristically drilled the target from close-range.

Olympic were without their international sweeper

Milan Blagojevic (in Melbourne with the Australian squad), Peter Tsekenis (injured) and suspended Norman Tome. This forced David Ratcliffe to re-shuffle his lineup and bring back into action for the first time this season the blockbusting striker Derek Poimer (out all season with a knee reconstruction), drop striker Kimon Taliadoros back as a midfielder, and use young Ivan Zelic as a sweeper behind twin-stoppers David Barrett and Adam Ciantar.

Olympic did not have it all their own way as shots by substitute striker Sean Babic (two) and lanky left midfielder Paul Bilokapic were all magnificently saved by Olympic's heroic goalkeeper Georgie Bouhoutsos, with the last being a classic and desperate diving effort as Bilokapic's 30 metre drive.

United drew level in the 69th minute when a long ball with Sean Babic in chase

forced a collision between Zelic and Bouhoutsos. Babic took advantage to slot home from an acute angle.

Ironically it was Sydney Olympic that opened the score six minutes into the second half from a Nick Meredith corner on the right which was pulled down by Alistair Edwards for his young sweeper Zelic (Ned's younger brother) to blast on the turn from the left. Poimer was on the spot to steer the hit into the target.

As early as in the third minute United threatened when a cross from central midfielder Aytec Genc to the back post was headed well on target by fiery striker Jimmy Patikas, but he was denied a goal as Ciantar brilliantly cleared off the line.

Nick Meredith cannoned a hot shot in the 14th minute into United's box where the ball deflected to midfielder Taliadoros who in turn deflected a point blank shot well on target which was



Adam Ciantar: Kicked goal-bound shots off the line.

magnificently blocked by United's goalkeeper Johnny Perosh.

Patikas in the 25th minute was put through by the combined efforts of right midfielder David Zdrilic and

striker Ante Milicic, but his point blank shot again was saved off the line by Olympic's heroic defender Ciantar.

A subdued Olympic coach, David Ratcliffe, later

reflected: "For what we had on the pitch tonight, it was our best result so far over the season. The beginning of the second half I thought we had them, but then they scored and got themselves back into the game I was satisfied with the commitment showed by all my players to fight on for the winner".

But a very disappointed United coach, Branko Culina, lamented: "We just have to grow up and take our chances which we didn't in the first half. We gave them two stupid goals. I felt that they (Olympic) were there for the taking".

UNITED: Perosh: M. Babic, Rudan, Plesa, Kupresak; Zdrilic (Trajkovski 71st), Enes, Genc, Bilokapic; Milicic, Patikas. (S. Babic 59)

OLYMPIC: Bouhoutsos: Bove, Barrett, Ciantar, Zelic (Augerinos 71st), Meredith: Taliadoros, Ardane: Trajanovski, Edwards, Poimer (Valas 80th).

Hat-trick hero returns in style

**WEST
ADELAIDE 3
WOLLONGONG
CITY 1**

BY PETER KRUPKA

Flamboyant striker Cyrille Ndongo-Keller celebrated his return to the Sharks' starting line-up with a hat-trick in his side's 3-1 win over Wollongong in the national soccer league match at the Hindmarsh Stadium last Sunday.

Ndongo-Keller returned to his entertaining best in the attacking duel against the competition's cellar-dweller.

The striker played one game early in the season but broke down with a knee injury and had missed every match until his return off the bench last week to snare the winner for West against Canberra.

Wollongong took a surprise lead four minutes into the match when striker Mario Jerman climbed over his marker to head the ball past the outstretched hand of 'keeper Peter Blazincic.

Midfielder George Jolevski provided Jerman with the telling cross and minutes later he set the tall striker up to dribble past Blazincic but his shot was blasted over the bar from a tight angle.

In a match played almost entirely in each penalty area, the home side always looked likely to score. Ndongo-Keller equalised in the

SCORERS: West Adelaide (Ndongo-Keller 22, 32, 68) Wollongong: Jerman (4)

POY: 3 - Ndongo-Keller (West Adelaide), 2 - Milosevic (West Adelaide), 1 - Hughes (Wollongong)

CROWD: 4,050

REFEREE: J. Papanicolas

22nd minute when he trapped a pinpoint cross by Nathan Day and fired the ball wide of Wolves goalkeeper Brett Hughes with the outside of his right foot.

The Cameroon international gave the home side the lead when he posted his second 10 minutes later.

The inventive striker ran onto a long ball into the penalty area and had his first shot well saved by Hughes but the ball fell kindly for him to hit it home from a tight angle at the second attempt.

The marksman completed his hat-trick midway through the second half after Hughes denied Jim Tsekinis with a stunning save but the Wolves failed to clear the ball and it deflected off Ndongo-Keller into the back of the net.

Ndongo-Keller had his share of chances to clinch his third in the first half but was foiled by Hughes.

The 'keeper tipped a close-range header over the bar and earlier in the match made a brilliant save from point blank range to deny the striker.

The post also came to Wollongong's rescue when Pablo Cardozo headed past Hughes but failed to beat the woodwork.

Jerman continued to get chances to equalise through the second half and forced a save from Blazincic within two minutes of the restart.

Minutes later a cross rolled across the West six yard box but Jerman failed to poke the ball home for what would have been a certain goal.

While Wollongong stretched West's revamped defence, it was the home side that looked more potent in front of goal.

Day, Branko Milosevic and Jim Keramidas all had great chances but failed to get on the scoresheet.

The Sharks were forced into the match without regular defenders Robbie Hooker (Socceroo duty), Frank Tibaldi (suspended) and Robbie Slager (injured) but still managed to clinch their fourth straight win.

West Adelaide consolidated its place in the six. They moved it into fifth spot having played one more game than sixth-placed Melbourne Knights.

WEST ADELAIDE: Blazincic, Alagich, Kokkinopitis, Cardozo (Andrioli 64), Aloisi, Milosevic, Ndongo-Keller, Keramidas, Thorp, Tsekinis, Day (Iriarte 77).

WOLLONGONG: Hughes, Jolevski (Ceccoli HT), Bourke, Horsley, Naumovski (Laybut 75), Perinich, Forshaw, Jerman, Pollari, Beltrame (Bonetti 59), Vrkic.

League leaders down inexperienced South

**SOUTH
MELBOURNE 1
MARCONI
FAIRFIELD 4**

BY CON STAVROS

South Melbourne's revival came to a screeching halt at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday, with the league leaders thrashing the Blues in a stand-out display.

Marconi proved their worth with a comprehensive demolition of South right across the park, lacing the showcase of talent with a hat-trick to Francis Awaritefe.

The former South striker strengthened his claim for a starting spot with the Socceroos, by delivering his technically impressive display in front of national coach Eddie Thomson.

Substituted because of exhaustion midway through the second half, Awaritefe also brought out the enthusiasm of the crowd, being roundly applauded as he left the field, despite clashing with South players throughout the match.

Awaritefe was not wanted by Frank Arok at South Melbourne at the beginning of the season and it was quite clear that the lanky goalscorer remains a favourite with the fans.

Awaritefe scored the final three Marconi goals, with man-of-the-match midfielder Eric Hristodoulou getting the visitors off to a perfect start in the 19th minute.

SCORERS: South: Coveny (43)

Marconi: Hristodoulou (19), Awaritefe (34, 41, 62)

YELLOW CARDS: South: Baser (26), Petersen (61), Blatsis (77)

Marconi: Van Egmond (9)

POY: 3 - Hristodoulou (Marconi), 2 - Awaritefe (Marconi), 1 - Maloney (Marconi)

CROWD: 7,136

REFEREE: E. Brazzale

Hristodoulou was able to score with a stunning shot from 20 metres following a rare blunder by Mike Petersen that allowed the ball to roll dangerously across the face of goal.

New-signing Nick Orlie was embarrassingly subbed by Arok at half-time to prevent further damage, after he was comprehensively outplayed by Awaritefe and Brad Maloney from the opening whistle.

Awaritefe outpaced and outsmarted Orlie and the rest of the Blues defence twice in the space of seven minutes to expose the lack of experience at the back, shooting expertly past Michael Petkovic on both occasions.

Awaritefe was able to run onto a long ball by Paul Souris in the 34th minute and scored with a carbon copy move in the 41st minute, with Hristodoulou supplying the long bomb.

Running onto a diagonal ball by Hristodoulou, Maloney managed an expert chip over the advancing Petkovic and

the ball appeared to bounce over the goaline and into the side netting before being hooked away by Baser.

Referee Eugene Brazzale, who had earlier been unsure about Hristodoulou's goal after it rebounded off the back post of the goal, looked equally confused this time, waving play on after a glance at the linesman.

Souths' goal came two minutes from half-time in what was by then a rare move forward. Bill Damianos, crossed to Vaughan Coveny at the far post to head home.

Awaritefe's hat-trick came in the 62nd minute and whilst his scrambled close range effort amongst a sea of Blues' defenders following a cross by Mike Smith lacked the class of the earlier two goals, it killed off any hope of a South revival.

Kevin Muscat's move back to a central defensive role helped take some sting out of the Marconi attack in the second half, although the visitors wasted a number of chances to add to the scoreline late in the game as South threw bodies forward hoping to salvage some pride.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Petkovic, Blatsis, Panopoulos, Damianos, Petersen, Knezevic, Baser, Allsopp, Muscat, Orlie (Trimboli HT), Coveny.

MARCONI: Catlin, Van Egmond (Stanton 84), De Marigny, Casserly, Hristodoulou, Maloney, Smith (Bingley 90), Awaritefe (Zoric 76), Souris, Renaud, Longo.

ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

Miserable night for Canberra

**CANBERRA
COSMOS 1
BRISBANE
STRIKERS 2**

BY GRAHAM COOKE
THROUGH AAP

Brisbane Strikers travelled south to triumph 2-1 over an indifferent Canberra Cosmos on a miserably cold night for National League last Saturday.

While they hardly played sunshine football all the way, the Queenslanders finished the game well worth the three points.

It was the Cosmos' fourth consecutive league loss, and it left coach Mike Lyons wondering just what he has to do to pull his side out of its mid-season slump.

Brisbane took the lead after nine minutes with what amounted to a gift

SCORERS: Canberra: Musitano (35)
Brisbane: Ditton (9), Phillips (72)
YELLOW CARDS: Canberra: Dukic (33), Lemezina (90)
Brisbane: Zoricich (52), Williams (90)
POY: 3-Bolton (Brisbane), 2-Castro (Canberra), Farina (Brisbane)
CROWD: 1,623
REFEREE: G. Connolly

goal, Brad Ditton received the ball from the right, and without a Cosmos defender within five metres, took his time to place his shot past goalkeeper Ben Harris into the net.

Youngster Alex Castro, playing himself into the team after a long-term shoulder injury, had an opportunity to strike back quickly for the Cosmos but his snapshot, off a pass from Gus Cerro, angled across goal and past the far

upright.

Brisbane was tentative at the back. It survived when Craig Williams headed away a Marko Pernovic cross straight to the feet of the incoming Norman Kelly who shot direct at goalkeeper Clint Bolton.

The Strikers were not so lucky in the 35th minute. Castro began the move, pumping a ball into the penalty area which Pernovic could not pick up.

A half-hearted clearance went straight to Cosmos defender Peter Mazis and with Bolton off his line in the confusion, Mazis found Michael Musitano ready to prod the ball into an unguarded net.

Cosmos was in danger of slipping behind again when Kelly's hesitation turned what should have been a routine clearance into a desperate scramble.

With Andy Brayshaw and Rod Brown descending on

him he was thankful to hack the ball away.

The brilliance of goalkeeper Bolton saved the Strikers as the game moved into the second half.

Toplica Popovich's cross found Pernovic perfectly placed for one of his typical bullet-like headers.

It was a position from which the veteran striker normally scores nine times out of 10 - but not this time.

Bolton, apparently stranded at the near post, somehow launched himself the length of the goal to push the ball away for a corner.

Cosmos had even more cause to regret that miss nine minutes later when Gary Phillips collected the ball 25 metres out to ram an unstoppable shot past Harris.

That seemed to signal the end of Cosmos' resistance as Harris was forced into a string of saves.

Canberra's last chance was a hopeful shot from well out by central defender John

Koch - it went well over the bar.

Strikers coach Bruce Stowell said his team's work rate was the difference between the two sides.

"At times, we played some great stuff and at times it was rather ordinary - but what shines out is the belief we can beat anybody and our work ethic that goes with it. It got us our just desserts tonight."

He agreed Bolton's save from Pernovic was probably the turning point of the game.

"It dulled the Cosmos spirit and gave us the incentive to go on to get the win."

CANBERRA: Harris, Watson, Kelly (A. Popovich 67), Pernovic, T. Popovich, Koch, Musitano, Dukic (Lemezina 78), Cerro, Mazis, Castro.

BRISBANE: Bolton, Zoricich, Williams, Hunter, Phillips, Farina, Brown, Wright (Hews 13), T. Cranney, Ditton, Brayshaw.



Clint Bolton: Man of the match display stole the game for visitors.

ROUND 21

Zebras bounce back to form

**ADELAIDE
CITY 5
MORWELL
FALCONS 0**

BY PETER KNIPPLA

Damian Mori scored a hat-trick as Adelaide City bounced back from a seven goal thrashing by Brisbane Strikers last Wednesday with a clinical 5-0 win over Morwell Falcons at Hindmarsh Stadium.

The Zebras stamped their authority on the game from the first minute and dominated every position.

Mori put City on the road to victory in the 16th minute when he slotted the ball past keeper Jim Kourts after he ran onto a ball from strike partner Brad Hassell which split the Morwell defence.

He fed off his teammate again in the 33rd minute when he "stole" the ball from Hassell's feet in the penalty box and darted into space to blast the ball with his left foot.

Craig Foster, who had missed most of the season with a foot injury, provided most of City's spark in midfield and volleyed the third goal home three minutes later when a cross by Dino Mennillo was helped towards him by Mori.

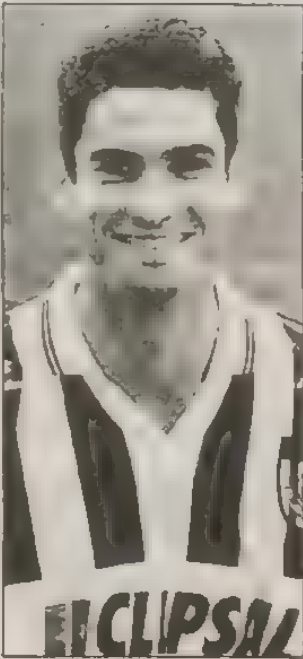
Mori completed his hat-trick within 30 seconds of the restart when he climbed over the hapless Morwell defence to head home a Hassell cross.

Hassell shared in the spoils

SCORERS: Adelaide: Mori (15, 37, 46), Foster (36), Hassell (63)
YELLOW CARDS: Morwell: Marcina (41), Stergiopoulos (74)
POY: 3-Hassell (Adelaide), 2-Foster (Adelaide), 1-Mori (Adelaide)
CROWD: 1,465
REFEREE: W Dade

midway through the second half when he broke the offside trap to dribble past Kourts and side-foot the ball into a vacant net.

The result was an endorsement for embattled City coach John Perin who was



Craig Foster: Provided most of Adelaide's spark.

falsely rumoured to have been sacked after his side lost 7-1 to Brisbane

Former Adelaide City player Carlo Talladira played his first match at Hindmarsh against his old team but there were few highlights for him or the Falcons who rarely troubled City in a one-sided encounter.

The score could have been worse had Mori, who took his season goal tally to 16, not missed two other clear-cut chances late in the game.

Morwell coach Harry Bingham said his young side, which missed injured Soccerro Warren Spink and Brain Bothwell, was never going to have an answer for the City machine keen to avenge its bad loss.

"They were too good. We were never going to have a chance when they played like that but there's no point in getting too down about it," Bingham said.

"We had a few players missing and I guess our lack of depth was exposed."

"Hassell and Mori were too quick and their defence was so relaxed."

Morwell are waiting the transfer of Fiji under-23 captain Esala Masi who Bingham said would add a lot to the side.

ADELAIDE: Petkovic, Yates, Ivanovic, Tobin, Mori, Hassell, Gibson, Lozanovski (Salapadis 80), Armour, Mennillo, Foster.

MORWELL: Kourts, Marcina, Canosa, Cummings (Reda 49), Miller (Craig HT), Tapa, Sevin, Waddell, Talladira, Stergiopoulos, Villani (Todorovski 66).

St George go international

BY BOB BROOKS

St George Saints, the Sydney club sitting on the edge of Kingsford Smith airport, play host to newly promoted J-League club Avispa Fukuoka on Friday (February 16).

St George were once one of the giants of Australian soccer. They included Johnny Warren in their team for many years at the height of their greatness.

Recently they have fallen on hard times but are determined to lift themselves to prominence once more.

Avispa Fukuoka won the Japanese Football League championship last year and were promoted to the prestigious J-League for 1996. Their Oita Stadium holds 43,000 in a city of 1.2 million.



The local fans have the pleasure of watching Pedro Troglio the 30 year old Argentine international who played at Italia 90. He supplies passes from



midfield to Hugo Maradona, brother of Diego, who has played in Japan for five years and Richard Baez.

Baez is a Paraguay Under 23 international. They are joined by a rapidly improving Japanese line-up all under the expert coaching of Carlos Pachame.

Pachame is the Director of Coaching and brings a wealth of experience to the task. He was Assistant to the famous Carlos Bilardo with Argentina in 1986 and 1990.

Later this month the Saints will play against Jubilo Iwata complete with Salvatore Schillaci and Brazil's current captain Dunga.

Kick off Friday is 7pm. Avispa Fukuoka can also be seen tonight (Tuesday) at Edensor Park when they play Sydney United.

HILL UNOPPOSED

Soccer Australia chairman David Hill has been re-nominated to lead the sport for another year.

Hill's was the only name submitted when nominations closed at Soccer Australia's headquarters on Friday and he will be re-elected at the annual general meeting on February 24th.

"I'm greatly honoured by the vote of confidence from soccer's

stakeholders," said Hill.

"Soccer is moving in the right direction and we are determined that the sport will realise its full potential."

Federal politician Gary Punch, who has decided to retire from politics, had been suggested as a possible opponent for Hill.

However, he announced last week that he would not stand for the position.

ERICSSON CUP

Form Guide

COMPILED BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

Newcastle Breakers

V

Canberra Cosmos



Friday,
February 16
BREAKERS
STADIUM



NEWCASTLE	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
Craig Carter	G	18 (0)	0	2 (0)
Adam Fittock	G	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Adam Sanderson	D	11 (0)	0	1 (0)
Steve Hickman	D	17 (0)	0	5 (1)
Nick Johns	D	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Ralph Maier	D	18 (0)	0	3 (0)
Glen Moore	D	6 (2)	0	2 (0)
Shane Pryce	D	6 (2)	0	4 (0)
Peter Richie	D	1 (0)	0	0 (0)
Andy Roberts	D	12 (0)	0	2 (0)
Glen Sprod	D	11 (2)	1	1 (0)
Darren Stewart	D	7 (0)	1	4 (0)
Gary Wilson	M	9 (0)	0	3 (0)
Craig Sharpley	M	17 (0)	0	2 (0)
Damian Brown	M	12 (4)	2	0 (0)
Troy Halpin	M	5 (3)	0	2 (0)
Scott Thomas	M	3 (6)	0	3 (0)
Jason Bennett	S	13 (1)	4	0 (0)
David Lowe	S	15 (3)	2	2 (0)
Harry James	S	3 (4)	1	0 (0)
Clayton Zane	S	13 (4)	3	2 (0)

Head to Head: Canberra 1-0-0, Goals (3-2)
Newcastle at home: N/A

RECORD

NEWCASTLE

Record Score: N/A

LAST 5 MATCHES

At home: 0-2-3

CANBERRA

Record Score: 3-2 (H)
95/96

LAST 5 MATCHES

Away: 2-0-3

CANBERRA	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
Steve Mautone	G	15 (0)	0	1 (0)
Ben Harris	G	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Danny Milosevic	G	3 (0)	0	0 (0)
Paul Dee	D	18 (0)	1	4 (0)
Stan Dukic	D	8 (3)	0	1 (0)
Peter Mazis	D	6 (0)	0	1 (0)
Richard Watson	D	12 (0)	0	1 (0)
Jason Dunn	D	16 (0)	1	1 (1)
Joe Gagetti	D	4 (0)	0	2 (0)
Paul Wade	D	18 (0)	9	2 (0)
Jim Baxter	M	5 (4)	0	1 (0)
Alex Castro	M	2 (0)	1	0 (0)
Gus Cerro	M	6 (0)	0	1 (0)
Norman Kelly	M	9 (0)	1	4 (0)
John Koch	M	12 (0)	0	2 (0)
Arsenije Popovich	M	3 (5)	1	1 (0)
Toplica Popovich	M	10 (1)	0	3 (0)
Willie Hastie	M	3 (1)	0	1 (0)
Paul McVitie	M	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Musitano	M	13 (1)	4	1 (1)
Lachlan Armstrong	M	12 (0)	4	3 (1)
Michael Garcia	M	10 (1)	0	0 (0)
Tony Lemezina	S	6 (6)	2	1 (0)
Marko Perinovic	S	15 (0)	3	8 (0)

ABSW TIPS

- (47) Alistair Russell: Canberra
(40) John Economos: Draw
(56) Greg Blake: Newcastle
(53) Con Stavros: Canberra
(38) Bob Brooks: Draw

Morwell Falcons

V

Sydney United



Saturday,
February 17
FALCONS
PARK



MORWELL	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
Jim Kourtis	G	17 (0)	0	0 (0)
Jason Dastey	G	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Claudio Canosa	D	17 (1)	1	7 (0)
David Craig	D	1 (5)	0	1 (0)
Sean Douglas	D	12 (0)	1	3 (0)
Alex Cummings	D	8 (4)	0	1 (0)
Justin Geri	D	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Scott Miller	D	18 (0)	1	4 (0)
Doug Marcina	D	19 (0)	0	2 (0)
John Waddell	D	18 (0)	1	3 (0)
James Alesi	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Sonny Sevin	M	18 (1)	1	0 (0)
Marc Stergiopoulos	M	8 (10)	1	4 (0)
Carlo Talladira *	M	4 (7)	0	0 (0)
Ernie Tapai	M	17 (0)	1	6 (1)
Zoran Todorovski	M	0 (6)	0	0 (0)
Brian Bothwell	S	17 (0)	4	4 (0)
Rob Despotovski	S	1 (5)	1	0 (0)
Michael Reda	S	11 (6)	2	3 (0)
Warren Spink	S	17 (0)	6	2 (0)
Carlo Villani	S	5 (4)	2	0 (0)

* Carlo Talladira's stats include 2 full and 7 substitute appearances for Adelaide City

Head to Head: Morwell 3-3-1, Goals (10-8)
Morwell at home: 2-1-0, Goals (6-5)

RECORD

MORWELL

Record Score: 2-0 (H)
92/93 + (A) 95/96

LAST 5 MATCHES

At home: 1-0-4

SYDNEY UTD

Record Score: 3-0
1992-1993.

LAST 5 MATCHES

Away: 1-3-1

SYD UTD	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
John Perosh	G	19 (0)	0	0 (0)
Mark Babic	D	16 (0)	0	2 (0)
Paul Bilokapic	D	17 (0)	1	4 (0)
Andrew Crews	D	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Velimir Kupresak	D	19 (0)	0	2 (0)
Richard Plesa	D	9 (4)	0	3 (0)
Tony Popovic	D	16 (0)	4	2 (0)
Mark Rudan	D	6 (7)	1	3 (0)
Robert Enes	M	18 (0)	0	4 (0)
Aytek Genc	M	12 (0)	1	2 (0)
Chad Gibson	M	1 (0)	0	0 (0)
Ante Moric	M	13 (0)	0	2 (1)
Jim Patikas	M	7 (0)	0	1 (0)
Robert Trajkovski	M	4 (1)	0	1 (0)
Robert Markovac	M	7 (6)	3	1 (0)
Dominic Usalj	M	2 (5)	0	0 (0)
Sean Babic	S	3 (10)	3	3 (0)
Manis Lamond	S	3 (7)	3	1 (0)
Ante Milicic	S	19 (0)	5	2 (0)
David Zdrilic	S	18 (1)	4	3 (0)

ABSW TIPS

- (47) Alistair Russell: Syd Utd
(40) John Economos: Syd Utd
(56) Greg Blake: Syd Utd
(53) Con Stavros: Syd Utd
(38) Bob Brooks: Morwell

Marconi Fairfield

V

UTS Olympic



Saturday,
February 17
MARCONI
STADIUM



MARCONI	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
Bob Catlin	G	19 (0)	0	0 (0)
Luke Casserly	D	6 (5)	0	2 (0)
J P De Marigny	D	17 (0)	0	5 (0)
Aaron Holst	D	5 (2)	0	0 (0)
Darren Iocca	D	1 (5)	0	2 (0)
Dominic Longo	D	11 (0)	1	3 (1)
Mike Smith	D	12 (0)	5	4 (0)
Paul Souris	D	14 (4)	0	0 (0)
Robert Stanton	D	14 (4)	0	2 (0)
Gary Van Egmond	D	12 (0)	0	3 (0)
Matt Bingley	M	15 (1)	3	0 (0)
Ramon Climent	M	3 (2)	0	1 (0)
Eric Hristodoulou	M	12 (6)	3	0 (0)
Brad Maloney	M	18 (1)	4	2 (0)
Andrew Ravanello	M	0 (2)	0	1 (0)
Brendan Renaud	M	4 (5)	1	0 (0)
Vlado Zoric	M	6 (6)	0	1 (0)
Andy Harper	S	18 (0)	10	3 (0)
Francis Awaritefe	S	18 (1)	9	3 (0)

Head to Head: Olympic 13-16-9, Goals (47-48)
Marconi at home: 6-5-7, (25-21)

RECORD

MARCONI

Record Score: 7-1 (H)
93/94

LAST 5 MATCHES

At home: 3-1-1

UTS OLYMPIC

Record Score: 5-3 (A)
1989

LAST 5 MATCHES

Away: 3-1-1

OLYMPIC	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
George Bouhoutsos	G	5 (0)	0	0 (0)
Mike Gibson	G	14 (0)	0	0 (0)
Scott Baillie	D	6 (1)	1	4 (0)
Dave Barrett	D	19 (0)	0	3 (0)
Milan Blagojevic	D	17 (0)	0	4 (0)
Adam Ciantar	D	17 (0)	1	0 (0)
Nick Meredith	D	15 (1)	1	7 (0)
George Sorras	D	3 (5)	0	2 (0)
Walter Ardone	M	14 (2)	2	3 (0)
Elias Augerinos	M	3 (10)	2	1 (0)
Kris Trajanovski	M	18 (0)	14	1 (0)
Peter Tskenis	M	18 (0)	1	3 (0)
George Valas	M	0 (2)	0	0 (0)
Raphael Bove	U	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Alistair Edwards	S	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Ivo De Jesus	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Norman Tome	S	18 (0)	5	4 (0)
Kim Taliadoros	S	13 (2)	5	2 (0)
Chris Slater *	S	5 (8)	1	1 (0)
Ivan Zelic	S	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Derek Pomer	S	1 (0)	1	1 (0)

* Chris Slater's stats include 1 full and 2 substitute appearances for Brisbane.

ABSW TIPS

- (47) Alistair Russell: Draw
(40) John Economos: Marconi
(56) Greg Blake: Draw
(53) Con Stavros: Marconi
(38) Bob Brooks: Marconi

ERICSSON CUP

Form Guide

COMPILED BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

Brisbane Strikers

Wollongong City

Saturday,
February 17
**SUNCORP
STADIUM**

BRISBANE	Pos	Gms	Gls	YC
		(I) RES		(I) RC
Clint Bolton	G	19 (0)	0	0 (0)
Andrew Brayshaw	D	6 (10)	1	2 (1)
Glen Gwynne	D	8 (0)	0	2 (0)
Alan Hunter	D	16 (0)	1	1 (0)
Steve Jackson	D	7 (1)	0	2 (0)
Chris Zoricich	D	15 (2)	3	4 (1)
Craig Williams	D	6 (6)	1	2 (0)
Mark Battistin	D	15 (2)	2	4 (0)
Sean Cranney	M	16 (0)	3	2 (0)
Troy Cranney	M	19 (0)	0	1 (0)
Brad Ditton	M	1 (3)	1	0 (0)
Chay Hews	M	0 (5)	0	0 (0)
Gary Phillips	M	15 (0)	1	1 (0)
Jason Polak	M	18 (0)	1	2 (0)
Danny Wright	M	12 (4)	1	3 (0)
Reece Tollenare	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Rod Brown	S	19 (0)	7	1 (0)
Frank Farina	S	16 (0)	12	3 (1)

Head to Head: Level 4-1-4, Goals (W 15-12)
Brisbane at home: 3-0-1, Goals (8-4)

RECORD

BRISBANE

Record Score: 2-0 (H)
93/94 + 94/95
LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 4-1-0

WOLVES

Record Score: 3-0
91/92 + 93/93
LAST 5 MATCHES
Away: 0-0-5

WOLVES	Pos	Gms	Gls	YC
		(I) RES		(I) RC
Brett Hughes	G	18 (0)	0	2 (1)
Steve Angelov	G	1 (0)	0	0 (0)
Martin Bourke	D	19 (0)	0	2 (0)
Matthew Dihm	D	5 (3)	0	0 (0)
Steve Forshaw	D	10 (1)	1	2 (1)
Bill Gjakovski	D	14 (1)	1	3 (1)
Ian Pollari	D	2 (0)	0	1 (0)
George Jolevski	D	13 (3)	0	2 (1)
Richard Lloyd	D	11 (1)	0	0 (0)
Mike O'shea	D	5 (0)	0	3 (0)
Joe Vrkic *	D	2 (1)	0	1 (0)
Paul Beltrame *	M	6 (3)	0	2 (0)
Mineo Bonetig	M	3 (7)	0	1 (0)
Matthew Borg	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Alvin Ceccoli	M	0 (2)	0	0 (0)
Claudio Cellini	M	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Stephen Laybutt	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Pedro Ricoy	M	16 (0)	0	4 (1)
Matt Horsley	M	17 (0)	0	1 (0)
Lupco Naumovski	M	15 (0)	2	1 (0)
Angelo Petratos	M	6 (10)	2	2 (1)
Mario Jermen	S	6 (4)	2	0 (0)
Colin Luff	S	4 (9)	1	0 (0)
Tony Perinich	S	19 (0)	5	2 (0)
Stuart McClaren	S	7 (2)	0	2 (0)
Rob Middleby	S	12 (2)	0	2 (2)

* Paul Beltrame's stats include 4 full and 3 substitute appearances, 2 y c for Marconi
* Joe Vrkic made 1 sub appearance for Syd Utd.

ABSWS TIPS

- (47) Alistair Russell: Brisbane
(40) John Economos: Brisbane
(56) Greg Blake: Brisbane
(53) Con Stavros: Brisbane
(38) Bob Brooks: Brisbane

Melbourne Knights

Adelaide City

Sunday,
February 18
**MELB CROAT
SPT CTRE**

KNIGHTS	Pos	Gms	Gls	YC
		(I) RES		(I) RC
Frank Juric	G	18 (0)	0	0 (0)
Vinko Buljubasic	D	16 (0)	1	4 (0)
Zoran Markovski	D	6 (2)	0	2 (0)
David Cervinski	D	16 (0)	0	5 (0)
Fausto De Amicis	D	17 (0)	0	2 (0)
Damien Grganovic	D	2 (1)	0	0 (0)
Ante Kovacevic	D	17 (0)	0	2 (0)
Andrew Marth	D	18 (0)	4	3 (1)
Lubo Lapsansky	M	17 (0)	2	5 (0)
Idriz Pelia	M	0 (2)	0	0 (0)
Mark Silic	M	15 (0)	0	2 (0)
Josip Simunic	M	1 (0)	0	0 (0)
Danny Tiatto	M	9 (11)	0	3 (0)
Damian Vojtek	M	3 (6)	1	0 (0)
Joe Bacak *	S	7 (7)	1	1 (0)
Ice Kutlesovski	S	3 (6)	1	0 (0)
John Markovski	S	8 (1)	1	3 (0)
Ollie Pondeljak	S	4 (3)	0	0 (0)
Joe Spiteri	S	17 (0)	4	6 (0)
Tom Pondeljak	U	7 (2)	3	0 (0)
Dragi Nastevski	U	2 (0)	0	1 (0)

* Bacak's stats include 5 full and 6 substitute appearances, 1 goal + 1 yellow card for Olympic.

Head to Head: Adel City 10-6-9, Goals (32-29)
Melb Knights 7-3-2 (20-5)

RECORD

MELB KNIGHTS

Record Score: 4-0 (H)
91/92
LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 2-1-2

ADEL CITY

Record Score: 6-0 (H)
90/91
LAST 5 MATCHES
Away: 1-1-3

AD CITY	Pos	Gms	Gls	YC
		(I) RES		(I) RC
Jason Petkovic	G	19 (0)	0	0 (0)
Milan Ivanovic	D	18 (0)	0	3 (0)
Sasha Nedeljkovic	D	8 (3)	0	4 (1)
Alex Tobin	D	19 (0)	2	2 (0)
Brad Armour	D	17 (0)	1	5 (0)
Joel Marino	D	1 (1)	0	1 (0)
Mark Yates	D	15 (2)	0	3 (0)
Mark Brazzale *	M	5 (2)	0	0 (0)
Angelo Costanzo	M	5 (6)	0	0 (0)
Craig Foster	M	5 (0)	1	0 (0)
John Gibson	M	19 (0)	1	2 (0)
Goran Lozanovski	M	18 (0)	0	3 (0)
Dino Mennillo	M	5 (10)	1	2 (0)
Jamie Perin	M	13 (1)	0	3 (1)
Brad Hassell	S	17 (1)	7	0 (0)
Damian Mori	S	19 (0)	16	1 (0)
Joe Mullen	S	8 (1)	3	1 (0)
Kosta Salapasidis	U	1 (9)	0	0 (0)

* Mark Brazzale's stats include 5 full and 1 substitute appearance for West Adelaide.

ABSWS TIPS

- (47) Alistair Russell: Draw
(40) John Economos: Ad City
(56) Greg Blake: Ad City
(53) Con Stavros: Draw
(38) Bob Brooks: Knights

West Adelaide

Sth Melbourne

Sunday,
February 18
**HINDMARSH
STADIUM**

WEST AD	Pos	Gms	Gls	YC
		(I) RES		(I) RC
Peter Blazincic	G	19 (0)	0	1 (0)
George Haniotis	D	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Robbie Hooker	D	18 (0)	3	2 (0)
Rechat Mezensof	D	0 (4)	0	0 (0)
Con Kokkinopitis	D	18 (0)	0	2 (0)
Frank Tibaldi	D	16 (0)	0	4 (1)
Robbie Slager	D	17 (0)	2	4 (0)
Richie Alagich	M	18 (1)	0	2 (0)
Ross Aloisi	M	17 (0)	2	6 (0)
Ayrton Andrioli	M	3 (5)	0	2 (0)
Jim Keramidas	M	2 (3)	0	0 (0)
Pablo Cardozo	M	18 (1)	6	3 (0)
Atthan Lekkas	M	2 (2)	0	1 (0)
Branko Milosevic *	M	11 (2)	0	1 (0)
Hamilton Thorpe	M	7 (3)	0	1 (0)
Jim Tsekinis	S	18 (1)	7	3 (0)
Jose Irlarte	S	7 (7)	0	3 (0)
C Ndongo-Keller	S	2 (2)	4	0 (0)
Nathan Day	U	12 (5)	4	4 (0)

* Branko Milosevic's stats include 2 full and 2 substitute appearances for UTS Olympic

Head to Head: Sth Mel 20-2-10, Goals (66-35)
West Adel at home: 6-1-9, Goals (17-28)

RECORD

WEST ADEL

Record Score: 3-0 (H)
92/93
LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 4-0-1

SOUTHS

Record Score: 7-1 (A)
91/92
LAST 5 MATCHES
Away: 0-0-5

SOUTHS	Pos	Gms	Gls	YC
		(I) RES		(I) RC
Dean Anastasiadis	G	15 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Lilikakis	G	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Petkovic	G	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Con Anthopoulos	D	13 (1)	0	3 (0)
Alan Davidson	D	7 (0)	0	0 (0)
Alex Dunc	D	3 (2)	0	3 (0)
Steve Mangos	D	4 (3)	1	0 (0)
Kevin Muscat	D	1 (0)	0	0 (0)
Nick Orlic	D	13 (4)	0	1 (0)
Jean Paul Knezevic	D	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Alex Kuzmanovic	D	16 (0)	0	4 (1)
Nick Papadopoulos	D	3 (0)	0	0 (0)
Mike Valkanis	D	10 (1)	0	5 (0)
Paul Trimboli	M	17 (1)	7	1 (0)
Tansel Baser	M	7 (3)	0	1 (0)
Con Blatsis	M	8 (0)	1	3 (1)
Bill Damianos	M	12 (5)	2	1 (0)
Sasa Nikolic	M	5 (8)	0	2 (0)
Steve Panopoulos	M	14 (2)	4	2 (0)
Mike Petersen	M	18 (0)	0	5 (0)
Daniel Aillsopp	S	5 (1)	1	0 (0)
Vaughan Coveny	S	17 (0)	4	1 (1)
Michael Curcija	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Ivan Kelic	S	14 (2)	7	1 (0)
Craig Lewis	S	3 (13)	1	4 (0)
Agim Sherifovski	S	10 (2)	1	2 (1)

* Orlic's stats include 12 full, 4 substitute appearances and 1 y c for UTS Olympic

ABSWS TIPS

- (47) Alistair Russell: Souths
(40) John Economos: West Ad
(56) Greg Blake: West Ad
(53) Con Stavros: Draw
(38) Bob Brooks: Draw

National Youth League



Gully maintain lead



BY ROY HAY

Green Gully had a convincing 4-1 over Melbourne Knights which regained the lead for Gully in the NYL. Vlad Babic was the hero with a fine hat-trick after John Kindtner had given Gully the lead early.

Mario Medugorac blasted in a screamer from almost 40-metres but that was the only thing which beat Chris Vella all day. He was outstanding and Adam Cimino shackled the dangerous Branko Bacak. The Knights had two players sent off which ended any chances it had.

North Geelong matched Heidelberg United for 70 minutes at Elcho Park, but when a series of shots by the Bergers were blocked, substitute George Peppas, who had only been on the pitch a few minutes, was on hand to fire in the first goal. Steve Pounions made it two, then a groundner from Peter Groidis took a

NORTHERN DIVISION

RESULTS

FRIDAY 9 FEBRUARY
GREEN GULLY 4
Vlad Babic (3), John Kindtner
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1
Mario Medugorac

SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY
NORTH GEELONG 0
HEIDELBERG UNITED 4
George Peppas, Steven Pouniotis, Peter Groidis, Jeff Stefanidis

SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY
MORWELL FALCONS 6
Marcus Strejopoulos (2), Zoran Todorovski (2), Michael Kathopoulos own goal
SPRINGVALE CITY 1
Vince de la Plaza

SOUTH MELBOURNE v ALTONA MAGIC
(Match Postponed)

WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY
BULLEEN v VIS (Postponed till Sunday 18 Sunday)
PORT MELBOURNE v MELBOURNE ZEBRAS

ROUND 17

TABLE

		W	D	L	F	A	P
Green Gully	17	12	1	4	40	29	37
South Melbourne	16	10	4	2	45	15	34
Melbourne Knights	17	10	3	4	51	34	33
Bulleen Lions	16	8	4	4	31	20	28
VIS	15	8	3	4	42	21	27
Heidelberg United	16	7	5	4	37	28	26
Morwell Falcons	16	7	2	7	47	38	23
Springvale C. Reds	17	5	6	6	25	37	21
Melbourne Zebras	16	4	7	5	27	28	19
Altona Magic	16	4	2	10	15	33	14
Nth Geelong W.	17	1	2	14	9	65	5
Pt Melb Sharks	15	1	1	13	14	35	4

NB 3 points for a win

NEXT WEEK'S DRAW

ROUND 18

SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY

North Geelong v Springvale City
(4.30pm, Elcho Park)

Morwell Falcons v Green Gully
(4.30pm, Morwell Falcons Stadium)

SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY

Melbourne Knights v Port Melbourne
(4.30pm, Croatian Sports Centre)

Bulleen v VIS
(4.30pm, Veneto Club, rescheduled from Rd 17)

WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY

Melbourne Zebras v South Melbourne

(6.30pm, John Cain Stadium)

Bulleen v Altona Magic

(8.30pm, John Cain Stadium)

Heidelberg United v VIS

(6.30pm, Veneto Club)

LEADING GOALSCORERS

MICHAEL CURCIJA	19	South Melbourne
VLAD BABIC	18	Green Gully
ZORAN TODOROVSKI	16	Morwell Falcons
BRANKO BACAK	14	Melbourne Knights
JOHN PEPETTAS	14	Springvale City
BILL PETROVSKI	9	VIS

hammered Springvale City by six goals to one in the Valley on Sunday evening. Marcus Sterjopoulos and Zoran Todorovski each scored twice for the Falcons and Michael Kathopoulos also got a goal. The other one was an own goal.

For Springie, Vince de la Plaza gained the consolation goal.

Rescheduling of matches is making the Victorian Division even more confusing than usual. The South Melbourne versus Altona Magic has been postponed, and Bulleen will play the VIS next Sunday instead of Wednesday. The VIS takes on the Japanese team JEF Under 20 squad on Wednesday.

A Victorian Under 20 squad beat JEF United by two goals to one on Sunday night and impressed Australian coach Les Scheinflug, who is likely to take several of those on view into camp for the Australian squad.

wicked bounce to deceive Marko Saric, and Jeff

Stefanidis grabbed a fourth goal. There was not such a

gap between the teams and Saric, Ivan Biscan, Tony

Sobevski and Kieran Moore fought hardest for

North. Morwell Falcons

AUSTRALIA v JAPAN

Coca-Cola
SOCCEROOS



Wednesday, February 14

Bob Jane Stadium,
Albert Park, Melbourne

KICK OFF - 7.30PM



Paul Wade

Come and see
Australia's
stars in action

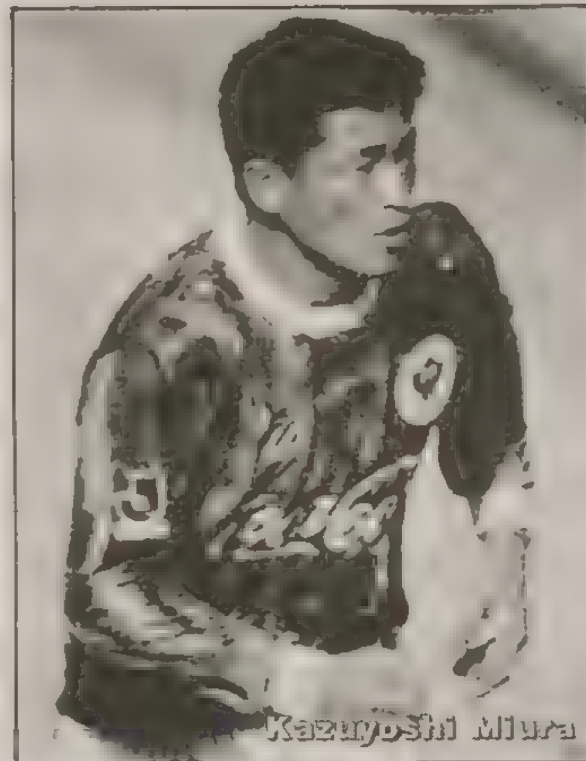
Tony Popovic
Goran Lozanovski

Milan Ivanovic

Joe Spiteri

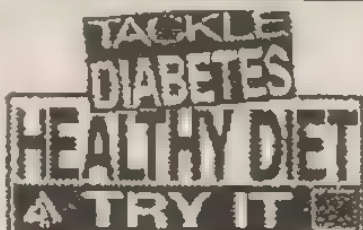
Damian Mori

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Kazuyoshi Miura

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TACKLE DIABETES



J-League outfit too strong for Vics

NO PREMIER LEAGUE MATCHES WERE PLAYED DUE TO STATE GAME

**VICTORIA 0
JEF UNITED 3**

BY JOHN RIGAS

Visiting Japanese team JEF United proved to be a powerful outfit as they crushed Victoria 3-0 in an international friendly game at S.S. Anderson Reserve on Saturday.

United made their intentions clear right from the outset, when Kiwi Wynton Rufer struck the crossbar with a thunderous strike in the second minute.

The first 20 minutes proved to be hell for the Victorians as JEF where playing keepings — off football, their distribution and running off the ball was exceptional and it came as no surprise when they opened their account.

Superb play led to the goal in the 22nd minute when Rufer layed off the ball to Takayoshi Shikida who was ghosting in at the far side to bury his shot past a helpless Jeff Olver.

Victoria had the opportunity to level the score when they were awarded a penalty after United defender Goran Vasiljevic committed a foul on Dean Fak after a corner.

Joe Tricarico's attempt, in the 36th minute viciously hit the crossbar and flew out to safety for the opposition. That was the Vics only real chance of scoring.

Former Werder Bremen player Rufer had a sensational first-half, being responsible for six out of nine of JEF's scoring attempts.

Two minutes into the second-half Victorian substitute George Svigos let fly with a dynamite like shot from 35 meters that had goal written all over it, this forced goalkeeper Kenichi Shimokawa too only parry the ball into the path of Tricarico. His header fell into the hands of Shimokawa.



Wynton Rufer: Dynamic for the visitors providing many goal-scoring opportunities.

JEF United went further ahead in the 60th minute when Shinji Otsuka played a through ball to Rufer who powerfully headed past Olver. Immediately after the goal Rufer was substituted.

The nightmare continued for Victoria as United went further ahead in the 82nd minute.

Substitute Yasuhiko Ni Imura found the back of the net with a clinical

finish from close range.

It was JEF United's most impressive result in four games against Victoria over the past two years. In 1994, JEF won 1-0 and drew 3-3, while last year they drew 2-2.

JEF's assistant coach Jan Versleijen said after the game his team's performance was impressive and their main objective of this tour was for players to improve, to put pressure on the opposition and chase the ball much more.

Losing assistant coach Chris Taylor mentioned that JEF where very technically impressive and their quick thinking and speed was too much for Victoria.

Asked how can Victoria improve on today's performance Taylor remarked, "The biggest thing is for the team to be together for a longer period, four players were missing this game."

JEF United are set to

play Australian champions Melbourne Knights tonight at Somers Street, North Sunshine, Kick off 7pm.

VICTORIA: Jeff Olver, George Georgiadis, Paul Della Rocca, Dean Fak, Henry Velkovski, Savva Rusmir (Andy Vlahos), Harry Ngata (George Svigos), Gary Hasler (Harry Micheil), Peter Tzolakis, Danny Gnjdic, Joe Tricarico

COACH: Ken Murphy. JEF UNITED: Kenichi Shimokawa, Kazuhiro Suzuki, Shinichi Muto (Takayuki Chano), Mikio Manaka, Goran Vasiljevic (Kazuya Igarashi), Hisataka Fijikawa, Takayoshi Shikida, Ivan Hasek (Satoshi Yamaguchi), Wynton Rufer (Yasuhiko Ni Imura), Shinji Otsuka, Atsuhiko Fijuri (captain). COACH: Yasuhiko Okudera.

YELLOW CARDS: JEF: Vasiljevic (36).

REFEREE: Nestor Zachriadi.

TOP GOALSCORERS

- 10 Despotovski (Heidelberg)
- 6 Nilo (Sunshine)
- 5 D. Grella (Springvale)
- 4 Tzolakis (Heidelberg)
- 2 Ketsakidis (Green Gully)
- Necesi (Green Gully)
- Suric (Green Gully)
- White (Bulleen)
- Becvinovski (Altona)
- Radecki (Altona)
- Ujgunovski (Fawkner)
- Lancaster (Springvale)
- M. Colina (St Albans)
- 1 Alagiozidis (Bentleigh)
- Caffrey (Bentleigh)
- Psarros (Port Melbourne)
- Svigos (Port Melbourne)
- Palamaras (Port Melbourne)
- Chalmers (Port Melbourne)
- Vlahos (Heidelberg)
- Hasler (Heidelberg)
- Lazarevski (Thomastown)
- Zinni (Thomastown)
- Lingurovski (Thomastown)
- Cuculevski (Thomastown)
- Tricarico (Thomastown)
- T. Markovski (Altona)
- Georgopoulos (Altona)
- Rusmir (Altona)
- Velkovski (Altona)
- Emsovski (Altona)
- Tsiakos (Bulleen)
- Lenetis (Bulleen)
- Liparotti (Bulleen)
- Fitzpatrick (North Geelong)
- Cosic (North Geelong)
- A. Skoko (North Geelong)
- John Dikulica (North Geelong)
- Ferla (Sunshine)
- S. Markovski (Sunshine)
- Petrakos (Box Hill)
- Frezzini (Box Hill)
- A. Roodhouse (Box Hill)
- Piemonte (Springvale)
- V. De La Plaza (Springvale)
- Magdic (St Albans)
- I. Rados (St Albans)
- I. Colina (St Albans)
- Giordano (Fawkner)
- Schimpano (Fawkner)
- Lucchesi (Albion)

ABSW TOP VOTES

- 9 Nilo (Sunshine)
- 8 Despotovski (Heidelberg)
- 5 Grbac (Bulleen)
- M. Colina (St Albans)
- D. Grella (Springvale)
- Keogh (Box Hill)
- Hasler (Heidelberg)
- Ngata (Thomastown)
- 4 Alagiozidis (Bentleigh)
- Cosic (North Geelong)
- Emsovski (Altona)
- T. Markovski (Altona)
- Tzolakis (Heidelberg)
- 3 Aretis (Sunshine)
- Atanasovski (Altona)
- Banini (Thomastown)
- I. Colina (St Albans)
- Deak (North Geelong)
- Drakos (Bentleigh)
- Ferla (Sunshine)
- Lancaster (Springvale)
- Karapatsos (Heidelberg)
- McMinimee (Springvale)
- Medved (North Geelong)
- Necesi (Green Gully)
- Runje (Altona)
- Rusmir (Altona)
- Schipano (Fawkner)
- Svigos (Port Melbourne)
- White (Bulleen)
- 2 Arygiou (Port Melbourne)
- Azzopardi (Green Gully)
- Brian (Albion)
- Dal Ben (Box Hill)
- Doulgas (Green Gully)
- Emmanuele (Thomastown)
- John Didulica (North Geelong)
- Jolic (St Albans)
- Georgiadis (Heidelberg)
- Ketsakidis (Green Gully)
- Kules (North Geelong)
- Micheil (Bentleigh)
- Milanovic (St Albans)
- Palamaras (Port Melbourne)
- Radecki (Altona)
- Suric (Green Gully)
- Vlahos (Heidelberg)
- 1 Branov (Fawkner)
- Becvinovski (Altona)
- Collins (Albion)
- Kanesoulis (Sunshine)
- Lazarevski (Thomastown)
- Lucchesi (Albion)
- Lutton (Bentleigh)
- Liparotti (Bulleen)
- Tsiakos (Bulleen)
- M. Trupkovic (North Geelong)
- S. Markovski (Sunshine)
- Mikulic (St Albans)
- Vassiliadis (Fawkner)

NEXT WEEKS DRAW

ROUND 5

FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY

Springvale City Vales v Bulleen Lions (8.30pm)

SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY

Bentleigh Greens v Box Hill Inter (6.30pm)

St Albans Saints v Thomastown Zebras (6.30pm)

SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY

Port Melbourne Sharks v Green Gully Cavaliers (6.30pm)

North Geelong Warriors v Fawkner Blues (6.30pm)

Albion Redsox v Sunshine Georgies (6.30pm at B.T. Connor Reserve, Broadhurst Ave, Reservoir)

Melbourne Warriors v Altona Magic (7.00pm)



RECORDED RESULTS SERVICE

0055 38887

SUNDAY MATCH RESULTS SERVICE

- ◆ Premier League
- ◆ State League Div. 1
- ◆ Provisional League Divisions 4&5

(Updated by 6.30pm each Sunday evening)

0055 38878

SATURDAY MATCH RESULTS SERVICE

- ◆ Premier League
- ◆ State League Divisions 1 to 3

(Updated by 6.30pm each Saturday evening)

0055 38898

SATURDAY MATCH RESULTS SERVICE

- ◆ State League Division 4
- ◆ Provisional League Divisions 1-3

(Updated by 6.30pm each Saturday evening)

(PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 0055 38878)

IT'S ALL IN THE TIMING

A goal-by-goal guide to the Ericsson Cup clubs

By Greg Blake

Don't leave your seats folks, 'cause the game ain't over 'til the fat lady sings.

Certainly not in the Ericsson Cup this 1995/96 season, where the stats are damning.

Nearly twice as many goals have been scored in the second half this season than in the first 45 minutes.

The figures up to Round 17 are 192 goals (second half) and 107 (first half).

More significantly, nearly half of those second half goals have been produced in the final half hour of play with the match points on the line.

Every club in the 12-team

league bar one — Morwell — has scored more goals after half-time than before, most of them by substantial margins.

And perhaps these exclusive ABSW tables tell something of the way the game is coached at Ericsson Cup level.

Certainly the numbers don't lie.

The period teams are least likely to score is during the final 10 minutes before half-time, when only 22 goals have been recorded overall.

Presumably teams are either unwilling to relinquish

any advantage or wish to control damage during this period.

Yet the final 10 minutes of a match has produced 60 goals so far this season, presumably as teams either press home an advantage or go for broke in desperation to save the match.

However coaches who preach early-match caution should bear in mind the figure which suggests against starting slowly.

That is that the team which scores first in any game is well and truly in the box seat.

Of the 99 league games which have reached a result other than 0-0 to the end of round 17 this season, the team scoring first has won 79 of those games and drawn another 14.

Only six times have teams which scored first actually lost the match.

Whatever you do during this Ericsson Cup season just don't leave the ground early thinking the game has already been decided.

WHEN GOALS ARE SCORED...

LEAGUE	1st HALF GOALS			2ND HALF GOALS			TOTAL
Ericsson Cup 1995/96	107			192			299
Breakdown in minutes	1st 10 min's	11th to 35th	36th to 11/1	46th to 55th	56th to 80th	Last 10 min's	
	25 goals	60	22	51	80	60	

WHEN EACH CLUB IS MOST LETHAL



MARCONI FAIRFIELD

	1st HALF GOALS			2ND HALF GOALS			TOTAL
	9			24			33
Breakdown in minutes	1st 10 min's	11th to 35th	36th to H/T	46th to 55th	56th to 80th	Last 10 min's	
	2	5	2	6	15	3	

*The Fairfielders are at their most lethal when the game is on the line during the second half.



UTS OLYMPIC

	1st HALF GOALS			2ND HALF GOALS			TOTAL
	9			25			34
Breakdown in minutes	1st 10 min's	11th to 35th	36th to H/T	46th to 55th	56th to 80th	Last 10 min's	
	2	4	3	4	10	11	

*UTS Olympic is by far the league's best finisher, overwhelming teams the longer the games goes on. UTS has scored in 16 of 18 games this year, a record better than any other club.



BRISBANE STRIKERS

	1st HALF GOALS			2ND HALF GOALS			TOTAL
	15			17			32
Breakdown in minutes	1st 10 min's	11th to 35th	36th to H/T	46th to 55th	56th to 80th	Last 10 min's	
	3	11	1	6	5	6	

*The Strikers boast a strong start and a consistent half. No team has scored more goals in the opening half hour than Brisbane this season.



SYDNEY UNITED

	1st HALF GOALS			2ND HALF GOALS			TOTAL
	7			17			24
Breakdown in minutes	1st 10 min's	11th to 35th	36th to H/T	46th to 55th	56th to 80th	Last 10 min's	
	2	4	1	8	4	5	

*Sydney United are at their most lethal in the period immediately after half-time, having scored a third of their season total in than 10 minute period.



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

	1st HALF GOALS			2ND HALF GOALS			TOTAL
	1			14			15
Breakdown in minutes	1st 10 min's	11th to 35th	36th to H/T	46th to 55th	56th to 80th	Last 10 min's	
	2	1	1	5	5	4	

*The relatively low scoring Knights perform substantially better after half-time.



WOLLONGONG CITY

	1st HALF GOALS			2ND HALF GOALS			TOTAL
	5			8			13
Breakdown in minutes	1st 10 min's	11th to 35th	36th to H/T	46th to 55th	56th to 80th	Last 10 min's	
	0	4	1	3	2	3	

*Wollongong's league-low total is due to a horror run between rounds 11 and 17. Twice the Wolves failed to score in three consecutive games and managed only one goal overall in the seven match spell.



ADELAIDE CITY

	1st HALF GOALS			2ND HALF GOALS			TOTAL
	10			17			27
Breakdown in minutes	1st 10 min's	11th to 35th	36th to H/T	46th to 55th	56th to 80th	Last 10 min's	
	2	5	3	4	7	6	

*Adelaide City is at its most dangerous during the middle periods of each half.



WEST ADELAIDE

	1st HALF GOALS			2ND HALF GOALS			TOTAL
	10			15			25
Breakdown in minutes	1st 10 min's	11th to 35th	36th to H/T	46th to 55th	56th to 80th	Last 10 min's	
	2	6	2	3	6	6	

*West Adelaide has strung together the longest streak of goalscoring games of the season so far, having not been shut out for 10 straight matches between rounds two and 12.



MORWELL FALCONS

	1st HALF GOALS			2ND HALF GOALS			TOTAL
	14			9			23
Breakdown in minutes	1st 10 min's	11th to 35th	36th to H/T	46th to 55th	56th to 80th	Last 10 min's	
	4	9	1	5	3	1	

*At their most dangerous in the opening half hour, the Falcons are the only side in the Ericsson Cup to have scored more goals before half-time than after the break.



CANBERRA COSMOS

	1st HALF GOALS			2ND HALF GOALS			TOTAL
	9			18			27
Breakdown in minutes	1st 10 min's	11th to 35th	36th to H/T	46th to 55th	56th to 80th	Last 10 min's	
	3	3	3	4	8	6	

*Canberra boasts a strong start and good finish. The Cosmos are up alongside Brisbane and Morwell as a team with the ability to get a confidence-building early goal.



NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

	1st HALF GOALS			2ND HALF GOALS			TOTAL
	6			9			15
Breakdown in minutes	1st 10 min's	11th to 35th	36th to H/T	46th to 55th	56th to 80th	Last 10 min's	
	1	3	2	0	1	3	

*Newcastle appear to start both halves of the match slowly.



SOUTH MELBOURNE

	1st HALF GOALS			2ND HALF GOALS			TOTAL
	9			19			28
Breakdown in minutes	1st 10 min's	11th to 35th	36th to H/T	46th to 55th	56th to 80th	Last 10 min's	
	2	5	2	3	10	6	

*The Blues are good finishers with the bulk of their goals coming in the last half hour.

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1996 NSW SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 1

Saturday, February 10		
Adamstown Rosebud	2	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	5	v
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Sunday, February 11		
Bankstown City	5	v
Leichhardt Tigers	0	v
Rockdale City Suns	1	v
Warringah Dolphins	1	v
St George Saints	0	v
Illawarra Lions	2	v
Macarthur Rams	0	v
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	4	v
Blacktown City	4	v
Central Coast	0	v

ROUND 2

Saturday, February 17		
St George Saints	1	v
Central Coast	5	v
Blacktown City	1	v
Sunday, February 18		
Illawarra Lions	2	v
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	0	v
Macarthur Rams	0	v
Warringah Dolphins	1	v
Adamstown Rosebud	4	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	5	v
Bankstown City	2	v
Leichhardt Tigers	2	v

ROUND 3

Saturday, February 24		
Adamstown Rosebud	2	v
St George Saints	0	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	0	v
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Sunday, February 25		
Bankstown City	1	v
Leichhardt Tigers	2	v
Warringah Dolphins	4	v
Canterbury Berries	2	v
Illawarra Lions	0	v
Parramatta Eagles	2	v
Central Coast	3	v
Macarthur Rams	0	v
Blacktown City	3	v
Rockdale City Suns	0	v

ROUND 4

Saturday, March 2		
Blacktown City	2	v
Central Coast	1	v
Sunday, March 3		
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Canterbury Berries	5	v
Illawarra Lions	0	v
Macarthur Rams	1	v
Rockdale City Suns	0	v
Adamstown Rosebud	0	v
St George Saints	0	v
Warringah Dolphins	1	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	1	v
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Bankstown City	1	v
Leichhardt Tigers	1	v

ROUND 5

Saturday, March 9		
St George Saints	2	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	1	v
Sunday, March 10		
Adamstown Rosebud	3	v
Illawarra Lions	2	v
Bankstown City	1	v
Leichhardt Tigers	2	v
Warringah Dolphins	2	v
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Blacktown City	1	v
Macarthur Rams	1	v
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Central Coast	1	v
Rockdale City Suns	1	v

ROUND 6

Saturday, March 16		
Central Coast	1	v
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Adamstown Rosebud	1	v
Sunday, March 17		
Macarthur Rams	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Rockdale City Suns	1	v
St George Saints	1	v
Illawarra Lions	1	v
Warringah Dolphins	1	v
Bankstown City	1	v
Leichhardt Tigers	1	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	1	v

ROUND 7

Saturday, March 23		
Adamstown Rosebud	1	v
St George Saints	1	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	1	v
Sunday, March 24		
Illawarra Lions	1	v
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Bankstown City	1	v
Warringah Dolphins	1	v
Macarthur Rams	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Leichhardt Tigers	1	v
Central Coast	1	v
Rockdale City Suns	1	v

ROUND 8

Saturday, March 30		
Central Coast	1	v
Blacktown City	1	v
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Sunday, March 31		
Rockdale City Suns	1	v
Macarthur Rams	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Leichhardt Tigers	1	v
St George Saints	1	v
Illawarra Lions	1	v
Warringah Dolphins	1	v
Bankstown City	1	v
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Central Coast	1	v
Rockdale City Suns	1	v

ROUND 9

Saturday, April 6 (Easter)		
St George Saints	1	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	1	v
Sunday, April 7		
Adamstown Rosebud	1	v
Illawarra Lions	1	v
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Warringah Dolphins	1	v
Monday, April 8	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Macarthur Rams	1	v
Blacktown City	1	v
Leichhardt Tigers	1	v
Central Coast	1	v
Rockdale City Suns	1	v

ROUND 10

Saturday, April 13		
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Central Coast	1	v
Blacktown City	1	v
Sunday, April 14		
Leichhardt Tigers	1	v
Rockdale City Suns	1	v
Macarthur Rams	1	v
Bankstown City	1	v
St George Saints	1	v
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Adamstown Rosebud	1	v
Illawarra Lions	1	v
Warringah Dolphins	1	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	1	v

ROUND 11

Sunday, April 21		
Adamstown Rosebud	1	v
St George Saints	1	v
Illawarra Lions	1	v
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Macarthur Rams	1	v
Warringah Dolphins	1	v
Bankstown City	1	v
Leichhardt Tigers	1	v
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Rockdale City Suns	1	v
Central Coast	1	v
Blacktown City	1	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	1	v

ROUND 12

Saturday, April 27		
Bonnyrigg W.E.	1	v
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Central Coast	1	v
Blacktown City	1	v
Sunday, April 28		
Bankstown City	1	v
Leichhardt Tigers	1	v
Rockdale City Suns	1	v
St George Saints	1	v
Illawarra Lions	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Macarthur Rams	1	v
Warringah Dolphins	1	v
Adamstown Rosebud	1	v
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Blacktown City	1	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	1	v

ROUND 13

Saturday, May 4		
Central Coast	1	v
Sunday, May 5		
Adamstown Rosebud	1	v
St George Saints	1	v
Illawarra Lions	1	v
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Macarthur Rams	1	v
Warringah Dolphins	1	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	1	v
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Rockdale City Suns	1	v
Central Coast	1	v
Blacktown City	1	v

ROUND 14

Saturday, May 11		
Blacktown City	1	v
Central Coast	1	v
Sunday, May 12		
St George Saints	1	v
Illawarra Lions	1	v
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Macarthur Rams	1	v
Warringah Dolphins	1	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	1	v
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Rockdale City Suns	1	v
Central Coast	1	v
Blacktown City	1	v

ROUND 15

Saturday, May 18		
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Sunday, May 19		
Adamstown Rosebud	1	v
Warringah Dolphins	1	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	1	v
Bankstown City	1	v
Leichhardt Tigers	1	v
Rockdale City Suns	1	v
St George Saints	1	v
Illawarra Lions	1	v
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Macarthur Rams	1	v
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Central Coast	1	v

ROUND 16

Saturday, May 25		
Blacktown City	1	v
Central Coast	1	v
Sunday, May 26		
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Illawarra Lions	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Macarthur Rams	1	v
Rockdale City Suns	1	v
St George Saints	1	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	1	v
Bankstown City	1	v
Leichhardt Tigers	1	v
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Central Coast	1	v
Blacktown City	1	v

ROUND 17

Saturday, June 1		
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Sunday, June 2		
Adamstown Rosebud	1	v
St George Saints	1	v
Warringah Dolphins	1	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	1	v
Bankstown City	1	v
Leichhardt Tigers	1	v
St George Saints	1	v
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Macarthur Rams	1	v
Blacktown City	1	v
Central Coast	1	v

ROUND 18

Saturday, June 15		
Blacktown City	1	v
Central Coast	1	v
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Adamstown Rosebud	1	v
St George Saints	1	v
Illawarra Lions	1	v
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Macarthur Rams	1	v
Blacktown City	1	v
Leichhardt Tigers	1	v
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Central Coast	1	v
Rockdale City Suns	1	v

Sunday, June 16

Macarthur Rams	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Rockdale City Suns	1	v
Adamstown Rosebud	1	v
St George Saints	1	v
Illawarra Lions	1	v
Leichhardt Tigers	1	v

ROUND 19

Saturday, June 22		
Blacktown City	1	v
St George Saints	1	v
Illawarra Lions	1	v
Warringah Dolphins	1	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	1	v
Bankstown City	1	v
Leichhardt Tigers	1	v
Adamstown Rosebud	1	v
Macarthur Rams	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Central Coast	1	v
Rockdale City	1	v
Sutherland Sharks	1	v

ROUND 20

Saturday, June 29		
Central Coast	1	v
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Blacktown City	1	v
Sunday, June 30		
Macarthur Rams	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Rockdale City Suns	1	v
Leichhardt Tigers	1	v
Illawarra Lions	1	v
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	1	v
Warringah Dolphins	1	v
Adamstown Rosebud	1	v
Bankstown City	1	v
St George Saints	1	v

ROUND 21

Saturday, July 6		
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Sunday, July 7		
Adamstown Rosebud	1	v
St George Saints	1	v
Illawarra Lions	1	v
Warringah Dolphins	1	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	1	v
Bankstown City	1	v
Macarthur Rams	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Central Coast	1	v
Rockdale City Suns	1	v
Blacktown City	1	v

ROUND 22

Saturday, July 13		
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Central Coast	1	v
Blacktown City	1	v
Sunday, July 14		
Rockdale City Suns	1	v
Macarthur Rams	1	v
Leichhardt Tigers	1	v
Bankstown City	1	v
St George Saints	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	1	v
Warringah Dolphins	1	v
Adamstown Rosebud	1	v
Illawarra Lions	1	v
Canterbury Berries	1	v

ROUND 23

Saturday, July 27		
Canterbury Berries	1	v
Sunday, July 28		
Adamstown Rosebud	1	v
St George Saints	1	v
Illawarra Lions	1	v
Parramatta Eagles	1	v
Warringah Dolphins	1	v
Bonnyrigg W.E.	1	v
Bankstown City	1	v
Leichhardt Tigers	1	v
Sutherland Sharks	1	v
Central Coast	1	v
Rockdale City Suns	1	v
Blacktown City	1	v

ROUND 24

ITC encounter provided enjoyment

The big clash of the ITC with NSW taking on the ACT, as predicted, turned out to be an exciting and skilful encounter, appreciated by the large crowd at Brandon Park last Saturday evening.

The two sides put on a most committed and spirited display. The young NSW squad, with the majority of its players aged 16 and under, taking on the more experienced ACT outfit. Fought out as a fairly even contest, ACT emerged victors with a scoreline of 3-2.

ACT was sent reeling when after just three minutes they found themselves a goal behind to some brilliant NSW attack, the Blues' newly-named OAP squad members Joanne Peters and Katrina Boyd combining perfectly.

Peters sent in a pinpoint cross for Boyd to send in an absolute rocket of a shot from 15 metres, so powerful it bounced back out of the net as quickly as it went in.

ACT then settled into the match and quickly found an equaliser in the 10th minute. A defensive error allowed dangerous striker Cindy Doyle in for



Cindy Doyle: Scored two of the ACT goals.

a successful shot.

In the 30th minute, ACT took the lead when further

hesitancy in the NSW defence allowed the former to steal possession

resulting in a 2-1 scoreline from Danielle Hepperlin's strike.

After the break, NSW ITC had the better of possession, constructing some good openings and looking at their most dangerous when building up the flanks. A number of good scoring chances were created with Boyd and Elizabeth Cotton unlucky not to equalise. ACT's defence held firm, with their attack looking lively on the quick break.

One such break in the 74th minute resulted in Doyle again in front of goal blasting her shot into the top corner to take ACT further ahead at 3-1.

From the resultant kick-off, NSW surged forward, slipping the ball inside to Gill Thomson who cleverly lobbed the ball over the defence and keeper, the ball falling just under the crossbar for NSW to immediately reduce the deficit to one goal.

Summing up the crowd's enjoyment was a comment from a male spectator during the Soccerroos match, who turned to some of the ITC players and said "your game was a better match to watch".

PLAYER FACTS

— Tracie McGovern —
OAP Squad, NNSW

Nickname 'Kimbie' the White Lion
Date of Birth April 21, 1978
Birthplace Wauchope, NSW
Height 174cm
Naturally left or right footed Right
Position Right back/midfield
Occupation Yr 12 Student
No. of brothers/sisters 1 brother
When/why started soccer Age 5
— My brother played and I used to play out the back with him
Previous clubs Wauchope Juniors, Wauchope Womens, Coffs Harbour Region



Rep Honours

NSW Schoolgirls '92-94;
NNSW U16/U19/Open '94-95;
Aust U16 Squad '95;
Aust Squad U19 '95

Most difficult opponent Soccer highlight

Cheryl Salisbury when I was 13
Captaining Australia Gold to win the International Youth Challenge '95
Roberto Baggio (AC Milan, Italy)
Metallic blue GL (the amazing Laser)
Tuna, potato, chicken
Raspberry Sports Plus
Live, Nirvana, Oasis
Ellen, The Nanny
Tim Allen
Playing my guitar, bodyboarding,
horse riding
A red VL Commodore turbo 86

Favourite player
Car I drive
Favourite food
Favourite drink
Favourite music
Favourite TV
Favourite actor
Hobbies

First thing I'd buy if won lottery
Most famous person I've met
Person I'd most like to meet
Soccer ambitions

Guy Leech
Andre Agassi
To play at the 1999 World Cup and 2000 Olympics
Tuna sandwich
Praying!
My throw-ins, probably my defence
My shooting
Indirect free kick in NZ outside 18yd box
Sweden

Pre-match meal
Pre-match superstitions
Best aspect of my game
Worst aspect
Best goal scored
Atlanta Olympics prediction

HAWAII BOUND

Marconi goalkeeper Amanda Paterson has been offered the opportunity to play in America for the University of Hawaii at the end of the upcoming NSW WSL season.

Last year Paterson had to overcome a serious shoulder injury, requiring a lengthy layoff and missing much of Marconi's winning WSL season. Her mid-season return saw her gain selection to the champion NSW State team.

Paterson's early form throughout the current pre-season has been back to her

impressive best, something she hopes to maintain through the year to help Marconi successfully defend their titles.

In addition to the offer of a college scholarship, Paterson has been rewarded for her efforts with her joining the elite stable of goalkeepers sponsored by the international goalkeeper company Reusch.

As well as Soccerroo and Ericsson Cup goalkeepers, Reusch now has two female contracted players in Australian number one Tracey Wheeler and now Paterson.

Company chief Martin Reusch believes the female market in the game is expanding rapidly, particularly in Queensland and NSW, and in pure business terms young female players emulate senior role models, making Paterson a good investment.

Paterson will wear the Reusch equipment on Marconi's tour of Italy next week where she will no doubt be kept very busy, before returning to Sydney and then embarking on her American experience.

HUGG LANDS TOP JOB

AWSA Chief Executive Peter Hugg has landed one of the most sought after jobs in sport. Last Tuesday, the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) announced 18 managers for the bulk of the sports to be contested at Sydney 2000.

Hugg, who worked in the Sports Management Division of the Australian Sports Commission before joining AWSA last year, has been appointed as Competition Manager — Football.

The Competition Managers will not be required to commence employment in the SOCOG offices until at least next year on a part-time basis, progressively developing to full-time, but will kick off preparations for the task ahead by attending the Atlanta Olympic Games this July as part of the SOCOG Evaluation team.

Each Competition Manager will undertake an ongoing orientation program starting this week with a full day workshop.

Applications were required to have a working knowledge of their sport at international level — ideally World Championships or Olympic Games level, outstanding managerial experience, and high motivation and commitment.

Hugg's role will be very much hands on, involving the conduct and organisation of the Olympic football competition (men and women), the organisation and conduct of test events in Australia, and participation in venue-based planning teams.

Women's soccer can at least be assured of equal status with the appointment of Hugg to this vitally important position.

LEHAGIN

The new brigade of Under 21 players, last month named as OAP and Train-On Squad members, have been in camp since Sunday in Melbourne under the watchful eye of National coach Tom Sermanni, new Assistant coaches Jeff Olver and Greg Brown, and Scholarship coach Leigh Wardell.

Tomorrow (Wed), the large group will be split in two to play one half each of the match against Olver's Victorian Select team.

Victoria's two players in camp,

Louisa Bisby and Leigh Terek, will take the field for their State side.

As well as being another exciting promotion for women's football to the general public, the match also serves as an important assessment opportunity for Sermanni in his ongoing monitoring of players, especially the new young players.

Tomorrow's match can be seen at the Bob Jane Stadium before the Soccerroos fixture against Japan. Preliminary line-ups are as follows.

VICTORIAN SELECT TEAM v AUSTRALIAN U/21s

Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne
Wed 14 February 1996

VICTORIAN SELECT
Colours: Navy Blue/White

- 1 Emma Bracken
- 2 Louisa Bisby
- 3 Joanne Sattler
- 4 Denise Wright
- 5 Christina Tsamasiros
- 6 Daniela Digiammarco
- 7 Lee-Anne Hamilton
- 8 Kate Walker
- 9 Jane Oakley
- 10 Nicky Leitch
- 11 Debbie Nichols
- 12 Leigh Terek
- 13 Kathy Zacharopoulos
- 14 Christina Sidiropoulos
- 18 Roisin McGowan

ITC Coach: Jeff Olver
Manager: Theresa Dees
Spts Trainer: Michele Mitchell

AUSTRALIAN U/21s
Colours: White/Green
FIRST HALF
1 Belinda Kitching
2 Dianne Alagich
3 Kristen Spinner
4 Trudy Diamond
5 Kristyn Swaffer
6 Jackie Hadden
7 Tammie Thornton
8 Amy Wilson
9 Kristy Moore
10 Lisa Casagrande
11 Joanne Peters

SECOND HALF
Belinda Barter
Tracie McGovern
Bridgette Starr
Louise McMurtrie
Sarah Garven
Kelly Polakow
Michelle Watson
Sarah Fitzgerald
Cindy Doyle
Lisa Casagrande
Gill Thomson

National Coach: Tom Sermanni
Asst Coaches: Greg Brown
Jeff Olver
Scholarship Coach: Leigh Wardell
Physiotherapist: Paul Haze

SYDNEY UNITED SOCCER CLUB



Requires players for a WOMEN'S TEAM
competing in NSW State League 2nd Division

For further information please contact
Sydney United on

(02) 823 6418

BETWEEN 9AM-5PM - MON-FRI

ITALY's Serie A & B

TABLES

SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	21	13	7	1	33	13	46
Fiorentina	21	12	5	4	35	20	41
Parma	21	10	8	3	31	18	38
Juventus	21	10	5	6	34	22	35
Lazio	21	9	6	6	41	25	33
Roma	21	8	7	6	28	21	31
Inter	21	7	8	6	28	18	29
Vicenza	21	7	8	6	22	21	29
Napoli	21	7	8	6	22	25	29
Sampdoria	21	7	7	7	30	30	28
Udinese	21	7	6	8	25	29	27
Atalanta	21	7	4	10	23	33	25
Cagliari	21	7	3	11	18	33	24
Piacenza	21	6	5	10	21	36	23
Padova	21	6	3	12	25	35	21
Torino	21	4	9	8	21	32	21
Bari	21	4	6	11	30	44	18
Cremonese	21	2	7	12	23	35	13

RESULTS

SERIE A

Atalanta.....0	Milan.....1
Bari.....0	Piacenza.....0
Inter.....4	Napoli.....0
Juventus.....4	Cagliari.....1
Padova.....3	Vicenza.....2
Roma.....3	Cremonese.....0
Sampdoria.....1	Torino.....0
Udinese.....1	Lazio.....1
Fiorentina.....1	Parma.....0

PLAYERS CALL FOR STRIKE

Italian Serie A players, fed up with what they said was a high-handed attitude by federation and league officials, have called a strike for March 17, the leader of the Italian Soccer Players' Association (AIC) said last week.

Sergio Campana told reporters in Milan that players felt let down by a lack of communication with soccer officials.

"The players don't count for much and it's not democratic," Juventus striker and AIC committee member Gianluca Vialli, said.

"We want to vote on the decisions that interest us."

Campana said that if they did not hear back from the authorities, players would strike on March 17. On subsequent Sundays Serie B and Serie C clubs would follow suit.

He condemned proposals being considered by officials to disband part of Serie C without fully consulting players.

Donadoni to continue career in New York



Roberto Donadoni: At 35 his playing days go on for Metrostars in USA Major League Soccer.

Roberto Donadoni, a member of Italy's 1990 and 1994 World Cup teams, was one of 12 more players assigned to teams last week on the eve of its inaugural draft in New York.

Donadoni, a 10-year veteran of AC Milan, was assigned to the MetroStars. The 35-year-old midfielder will join United States national team players Tab Ramos and Tony Meola, already assigned to the New York City-area club.

The MetroStars' fourth allocated player is 21-year-old American midfielder Damian Silvera.

US national team captain and sweeper Marcelo Balboa, the most capped United States player with 109, was assigned to the Colorado Rapids.

Balboa who has appeared in the last two World Cup finals and played the last two seasons with Leon in the Mexican First Division, was the third player allocated to the Rapids, joining US national team members Dominic Kinnear and Roy Wegerle.

Each of the 10 MLS teams was allocated four players.

Also newly-allocated were former Italian national team player Giuseppe Galderisi and American Professional Soccer League All-Star goalkeeper Jim St Andre, both to the New England Revolution.

A total of 39 players have been allocated by Major League Soccer, which kicks off its inaugural season on April 6 with a match in San Jose between the Clash and D.C. United.

Berti out with knee injury

Italy's Nicola Berti will be out of soccer for the next three months with a knee injury, his league club Internazionale said last week. It said the 28-year-old player, one of Italy's most experienced midfielders, had injured his left knee in training. Tests had revealed torn ligaments.

Milan extend lead to five points



George Weah's (left) solo effort in the opening minute was enough for AC Milan to see off Atalanta 1-0 last Sunday and stretch its lead at the top of Italy's Serie A to a commanding eight points.

The Liberian, showing the strength and skill which have made him World, European and African Footballer of the Year, held off two challenges before claiming his second goal in successive matches since returning from African Nations' Cup duty.

The result was marred by the 89th-minute dismissal of defender Christian Panucci.

Cagliari's veteran manager Giovanni Trapattoni, who won seven league titles with Juventus in the 1980s, made an unhappy return to Turin, watched his new side tumble to its fourth successive

away defeat -- a 4-1 humiliation in which the champions at last showed signs of their 1994/5 form.

At Udine, Lazio's Diego Fuser took full advantage of Italian referees' novel move to stop each match in the 90th minute and announce publicly how much time would be added on for stoppages.

With Lazio trailing 1-0 and six minutes of stoppage time to add, Fuser timed his equaliser to perfection, finding the net from 25 metres with virtually the last kick of the match.

It was Lazio's first away point in six matches and kept them in fourth place on 33 points, two in front of city rivals Roma, easy 3-0 winners over Cremonese at the Olympic stadium.

Maurizio Ganz and Marco Branca both scored twice in Inter's 4-0 thrashing of Napoli at the San

Siro, in which the visitor had Fausto Pari sent off.

Question marks over the future of Milan coach Fabio Capello, accused by the club's owners of failing to produce entertaining football, show no signs of distracting his side from a fourth title in five seasons.

The foundations of Milan's 16th match without defeat were laid in less than a minute as a 30-metre pass by Frenchman Marcel Desailly released Weah for his eighth goal of the season.

Atalanta pressed hard but Milan's defence lived dangerously only twice.

First Sebastiano Rossi pulled off a brilliant reflex save from Marco Sgro's speculative long-range shot, then Federico Pisani's header flew narrowly over the bar.

Lazio have suffered abysmal

away form with just six goals and no wins since September. They fell behind at Udinese in the 10th minute when defender Paolo Negro tried to block Raffaele Amerano's incisive cross but succeeded only in turning the ball into his own net.

In the 20th minute a shot by Lazio's Pierluigi Casiraghi beat goalkeeper Attilio Gregori only for Valerio Bertotto to clear off the Udinese line.

But deep into injury time, Fuser, one of the fiercest strikers of the ball in Serie A, broke Lazio's jinx with a ferocious strike.

Cagliari's defeat at Juventus was the fourth successive away match in which the Sardinians have conceded four goals.

To make matters worse, the visitors fell behind to a goal from their own defender Mauro Bonomi, who haplessly deflected

Fabrizio Ravanelli's 10th-minute shot past his own keeper.

Eager to get his own name on the scoresheet, Ravanelli pounced on another error by Bonomi in the 22nd minute to head-home Paolo Sousa's cross.

Alessandro Del Piero and Vladimir Jugovic completed the goal rush, with Luis Oliviera claiming a consolation goal for Cagliari.

Relegation-threatened Padova triumphed in their Veneto derby with Vicenza, a five-goal thriller in which the home side looked like coasting to victory after taking a 3-0 lead in the 87th minute through Swede Joachim Bjorklund's own goal.

But stoppage-time goals from Roberto Murgita and Gabriele Ambrossetti left Padova to survive an anxious finale.

Asprilla fires up Newcastle's recovery

A dramatic debut by Faustino Asprilla (right), just three hours after the Colombian flew in from Italy, inspired Premiership leader Newcastle to a 2-1 win over Middlesbrough last Saturday.

Newcastle, aiming for its first title in 69 years, preserved its nine-point lead after record \$A13.67 million signing Asprilla instigated a stirring fightback.

The 26-year-old Colombian had been expected to watch Newcastle's game from the main stand of Middlesbrough's lavish new Riverside Stadium.

But manager Keegan surprisingly named the striker as a substitute, introducing him to the rough-and-tumble of the Premiership with 23 minutes to go and with his side trailing to a first half own goal.

Keegan's side was facing only its fourth league defeat of the season after John Beresford turned Brazilian star Juninho's 37th minute cross into his own net.

But within seven minutes of coming on, a piece of dazzling skill on the left flank by Asprilla provided the opportunity for Steve Watson to head Newcastle level. England striker Les Ferdinand, capitalising on a terrible error by goalkeeper Gary Walsh 12

minutes from time, condemned Bryan Robson's Boro to its seventh consecutive league defeat.

Asprilla, who donned Newcastle's famous black and white stripes shortly after flying in from Milan, admitted he had not expected to be given the chance to make such a spectacular introduction.

"When the club hadn't got the work permit yesterday (Friday) I didn't think I'd be able to play for a while," said Asprilla, who was only denied a debut goal by a fine Gary Walsh save.

He added: "I am just so happy that it's gone so well for me. As soon as I went out there, with the fans shouting for me I felt comfortable and I know I am going to enjoy playing for Newcastle."

Keegan, who admitted his side was well below its best, praised the man he has spent weeks trying to sign.

He said: "He is a naturally fit lad though even though he has barely played in the last two and a half months but he just sparked us off."

"Before the game I told him we'd send him on if we were two up. I didn't think he had to go on when we were a goal down but he did fantastically well and showed just what a great player can do," he added.



Innovation needs experimentation

This letter from FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter appeared in FIFA's January newsletter.

"A remark about bigger goals made during an interview towards the end of last year has unleashed a deluge of comment — much of it admittedly negative, as speculation about possible experiments was rapidly inflated by the media to declarations of imminent radical change."

But nothing happens that fast as far as modifications to the Laws of the Game are concerned.

Let's put the record straight: when the International Football Association

Board meets in Rio in March, it may authorise FIFA to conduct experiments with larger goals over the next couple of years or so. But the Board may turn down the idea, and even if it gives the go-ahead, there is absolutely no certainty that they will lead to anything definite.

The sceptical or at times even outraged reactions admittedly came as no great

surprise. But any idea which may be introduced in a few years' time has to be put to the test today, in order to gain a clear impression of its likely adoption.

To those who criticise FIFA for tinkering too much with the rules, we may point out that relatively few of the recent experiments have actually been adopted while the discontinued experiments have affected only a tiny proportion of the football community.

Meanwhile those which have proved worthwhile (such as the back-pass rule, the ban on tackling from behind and passive offside) have won widespread approval.

Innovation for the sake of it never was the object. But all innovation needs experimentation. Let's wait and see the results before jumping to conclusions."

Joseph S. Blatter, General Secretary



STOP PRESS

NSW NEWS

STOP PRESS

Meilak stars in Parramatta Super League win

Malcolm Meilak, one of the youngest players on the park, stole the show ahead of his more experienced peers, with a five-star performance in Parramatta Eagles 4-0 win over Leichhardt Tigers at Lambert Park.

Meilak had a hand in all four Parramatta goals including a hat-trick for himself, as the Eagles made a successful return to the NSW Super League.

Back in the NSW competition after six seasons in the National League, Parramatta's rebuilt side completely dominated the Tigers, who were reduced to 10 men after only 25 metres when Bob Casserley was ruled to have used an elbow on Tony Danaskos in a challenge for the ball.

In fact, Eagles coach Washington Gonzalez now has a nice headache, with his two main strikers in Scott Gilbert and Geoff Gunning both set to return in the next few weeks and Meilak and Richard Machado both in good form.

The game was evenly poised early on with Parramatta more fluent in attack but they came up against a

very dogged tigers defence and goalkeeper Frank Mikuletic who was once again showing good form early in the season.

However with Casserley's dismissal the game as a contest was effectively over as Parramatta played a very intelligent and patient game which had the Tigers played breathing rather heavily at half-time.

At 0-0 at the break, Tigers fans were still hopeful there team could get a result but within 30 seconds of the restart their hopes were dashed.

Meilak receiving the ball on the left beat Craig King with some deft footwork before placing an excellent cross over to Machado who was waiting at the back post. He made no mistake with a powerful header that gave Mikuletic no chance.

This seemed to break the Tigers spirit as Parramatta came swarming forward in numbers and seven minutes later they went two up with Meilak's first goal. Machado seized on a bad backpass by Jeremy Pettenon, his shot being well smothered by Mikuletic but the

rebound was pounced on by Meilak who made no mistake from 10 yards.

Three minutes later, Meilak had his second when a controversial ruling by the referee involving a backpass which appeared to come off Meilak resulted in a free kick only five metres out. Meilak waiting at the far post received a good low ball and buried it past the hapless defence on the goaline.

Parramatta continued their

onslaught at they controlled the ball to perfection and waiting patiently for the gaps to open. Only good keeping and some sloppy finishing prevented the score being added to.

However it was only a matter of time before they would score again and Meilak's hat-trick arrived 15 minutes from the end when he latched onto a cross by Machado, his stinging volley taking a slight deflection on it's way to goal.

Coach Gonzalez was happy with

the win but was not getting carried away saying, "while I was pleased with the result, I can still see a lot of improvement in my players."

"We had a few things go our way today and I was pleased that my players played it very professionally and in the end score a fairly convincing win."

Asked about Meilak, Gonzalez had nothing but praise, "Malcolm's effort was superb and he has a lot of potential. He could go a long way in

this game and he showed today he has got the will to succeed at a high level."

Leichhardt coach Tony Pezzano was bitterly disappointed with the result saying, "It was always going to be a difficult match for us today but to try and win with 10 men made it just that twice as difficult."

We gave them three soft goals which they took very well and a number of my players dropped their heads which disappoints me more."

YOUTH LEAGUE NORTHERN DIVISION

ROUND 11 GRAHAM ARNOLD COLTS CUP

CENTRAL COAST	0
UTS OLYMPIC	1
ADAMSTOWN R'BUDS	2
WARRINGAH DOLPHINS	0
MACARTHUR RAMS	WO
PARRAMATTA EAGLES	WO
BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS	5
SUTHERLAND SHARKS	0
BONNYRIGG WE	1
CANTERBURY M'VILLE	0
SYDNEY UNITED	1
ROCKDALE CITY SUNS	0
ILLAWARRA LIONS	3
LEICHHARDT TIGERS	0
*PARRAMATTA EAGLES	2
CANTERBURY M'VILLE	0
*Deferred match — Round 3	

TABLE

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	PTS
Central Coast	11	5	4	0	2	27	22	23
UTS Olympic	11	7	0	1	3	15	4	22
Macarthur Rams	10	6	2	0	2	19	12	22
Rockdale City Sun	12	6	1	0	5	19	18	20
Warringah Dolphin	11	5	2	0	4	20	13	19
Illawarra Lions	9	5	2	0	2	17	10	19
Parramatta Eagles	9	5	2	0	2	13	14	19
Sydney United	11	3	4	0	4	12	14	17
Bankstown City	12	5	0	1	6	25	19	16
Bonnyrigg WE	11	4	2	0	5	14	18	16
Leichhardt Tigers	11	4	1	0	6	13	22	14
Canterbury Berrie	11	4	0	0	7	12	19	12
Sutherland Sharks	10	3	1	0	6	16	19	11
Adamstown R'bud	11	1	1	0	9	12	30	5

ROUND 19 - LES SCHEINFLUG YOUTH CUP

WOLLONGONG CITY	4
A Petrasos (3) N Spencer	0
ST GEORGE SAINTS	0
NSW INTENSIVE TRAINING CENTRE	2
M Langdon, S Utjensevic	0
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	4
C Zane (2), A Rutledge, N Johns	2
ACT ACADEMY	2
A Barac, S Conlon	1
QLD ACADEMY OF SPORT	1
T De Lange	1
BLACKTOWN CITY	1
J Anderson	6
AUST INSTITUTE OF SPORT	0
P Puljan (3), L Tomich	0
SYDNEY UNITED	2
UTS OLYMPIC	2
*AUST INSTITUTE OF SPORT	3
P Sapazovski P Buljan B Emerton	1
QLD ACADEMY OF SPORT	1
T De Lange	0
**SYDNEY UNITED	0
PARRAMATTA EAGLES	2
*Deferred match — Round 5, **Deferred match — Round 17	

TABLE

Marconi Fairfield	19	15	0	1	3	64	14	46
AIS	19	12	0	2	5	60	27	38
ACT Academy	19	11	0	2	6	39	35	35
Sydney United	18	11	0	0	7	32	24	33
Wollongong City	18	9	0	2	7	38	36	29
UTS Olympic	19	8	0	4	7	40	28	28
Qld Acad of Sport	16	8	0	1	7	42	25	25
Parramatta Eagles	19	6	0	6	7	31	31	24
Newcastle Breaker	19	7	0	2	10	33	41	23
Blacktown City	18	5	0	4	9	29	50	19
St George	16	2	0	2	12	14	54	8
NSW ITC	18	2	0	0	16	10	67	6

NSW SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 1

FIRST GRADE

SATURDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY

Adamstown Rosebud	2	St George Saints	0
Bonnyrigg WE	5	Illawarra Lions	2
Sutherland Sharks	1	Macarthur Rams	0

SUNDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY

Bankstown City Lions	5	Canterbury Berries	1
Leichhardt Tigers	0	Parramatta Eagles	4
Rockdale City Suns	1	Blacktown City	4
Warringah Dolphins	1	Central Coast	0

UNDER 21

SATURDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY

Adamstown Rosebud	2	St George Saints	1
Bonnyrigg WE	5	Illawarra Lions	3
Sutherland Sharks	0	Macarthur Rams	1

SUNDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY

Bankstown City Lions	0	Canterbury Berries	1
Leichhardt Tigers	2	Parramatta Eagles	2
Rockdale City Suns	1	Blacktown City	0
Warringah Dolphins	0	Central Coast	1

QPR looking at the drop

First half goals by Mark Wright and Robbie Fowler (right) were enough to keep Liverpool on the fringe of the English Premier League title race despite a spirited second-half fightback by Queens Park Rangers last Sunday.

Liverpool's 2-1 victory still leaves it 11 points behind leaders Newcastle, which has a game in hand, and two behind second-placed Manchester United.

Rangers played some bright soccer but lacked composure in front of goal. Danny Dichio and Trevor Sinclair both wasted point-saving chances by ballooning over at the end of thrilling runs as Liverpool struggled to cope under heavy second half pressure.

Dichio finally gave Rangers hope with a 66th minute shot that cannoned into the goal off defender Phil Babb but its hopes of avoiding relegation look increasingly gloomy.

In a League Cup semi-final first leg match at St Andrews, Birmingham defender Chris Whyte suffered a nightmare against his old club Leeds to put the premier league side within sight of its first domestic final since 1973.

The 34-year-old defender, recalled from a loan spell at West Ham to fill in at the back for the suspension-hit first division side, had been partially to blame when he allowed Tony Yeboah time to pick his spot and cancel out Kevin Francis's first-half opener.

But White, a mainstay of the Leeds side that won the league title in 1992, then went through the misery of putting the ball in his



own net 17 minutes from time.

Rod Wallace fed the overlapping Gary Kelly on the right and his first-time cross picked out Yeboah.

The Ghanaian made firm contact with a downward header but Whyte, desperately trying to block, managed only to send the ball looping off the top of his head and into the Birmingham net.

Arsenal and Aston Villa play the first leg of their semi-final on Wednesday.

PSG lose home record to Montpellier

Montpellier scored three goals in five minutes to overcome a 2-0 deficit and sink French league leaders Paris St Germain 3-2 last Sunday.

It was the first home defeat of the season for PSG, who had led 2-0 after 74 minutes.

With a meagre three-point lead over Auxerre, who have a game in hand, and with Metz seven points behind but with three games in hand, PSG's league domination, so overwhelming at the end of last year, is in jeopardy.

The floodgates opened almost immediately after PSG had gone 2-0 up in the 74th minute through defender Francis Liacer after a fine move by Panama's Julio Cesar Dely Valdes, who had scored the opener four minutes after the interval.

Montpellier striker Christophe Sanchez swiftly reduced the deficit, giving international

goalkeeper Bernard Lama no chance, and barely a minute later Fabien Lefevre made it 2-2.

The Parisians, criticised for defensive deficiencies since the start of 1996, completely lost their concentration and in the 80th minute Montpellier substitute Laurent Robert made it 3-2.

"We led 2-0, the match seemed to go our way. But there are nights when everything goes wrong. This was one of them," PSG coach Luis Fernandez said.

The outcome was all the more frustrating as the Parisians had seemed fully in control, especially after Dely Valdes's opening goal, a fine header from a cross by defender Patrick Colletier.

The only good news for Paris St Germain came from Italy as Parma, their opponents in the European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-finals next month, lost to Fiorentina 1-0.



Julio Dely Valdes: Scored opener 49 minutes in for PSG.

Too few players-game halted

Portuguese club Leca had to concede defeat when it was left with only six players on the pitch three minutes from the end of regulation time in a league match last Sunday. Leca, 2-0 down at home to Boavista, had three players sent off and two injured, leaving it with fewer than the minimum seven required for

the game to continue.

The referee thus had to end it three minutes before it should have finished.

Boavista moved up to second in the table behind reigning champions Porto, overhauling Benfica who lost 1-0 at Belenenses.

Runaway leaders Porto showed the absence of injured top

striker Domingos Oliveira had not blunted their attacking skills when they crashed six goals past hapless Felgueiras.

Porto, extending their lead to 13 points, have 60 points from 22 matches. Boavista are on 47 and Sporting Lisbon and Benfica both on 46. Sporting crushed Farense 5-0 yesterday.

Rangers struggle with battling 'Well

Scottish league leader Rangers needed a 77th minute penalty from substitute Ally McCoist to beat battling bottom club Motherwell 3-2 at Ibrox last Saturday.

McCoist, sent on as a 72nd minute substitute for Dutch winger Peter Van Vossen, was the coolest man on the pitch just five minutes later when he sealed victory from the spot.

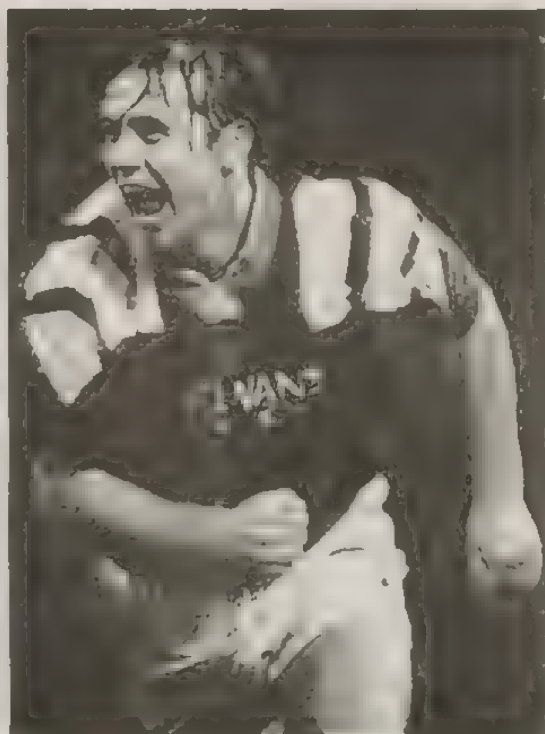
Rangers, chasing an eighth successive title, should never have required McCoist's intervention after surrendering the initiative to Alex McLeish's relegation-threatened side.

Rangers, a goal up inside two minutes, looked to be coasting to an easy win during a first half they totally dominated.

But Motherwell called on all their battling qualities after the break to make a real game of it. And, with a bit more luck, they might even have taken a point.

Ian Ferguson put Rangers ahead before Brian Martin pulled Motherwell level after 53 minutes. Alan McLaren's 65th minute goal restored Rangers lead until Willie Falconer equalised four minutes later.

The introduction of McCoist, however, proved to be the decisive point and



Ally McCoist: Came on as substitute and scored five minutes later.

he grabbed his 15th goal of the season by sending Scott Howie the wrong way from the spot after Paul Gascoigne had been fouled.

The one blemish on another superb show from Gascoigne was the yellow card he picked up for celebrating the penalty award.

The win took Rangers on to 62 points, three points clear of Celtic, who were held 0-0 at Falkirk.

Third-placed Aberdeen, trailing Celtic by a massive 19 points, won 3-1 at fourth-placed Hearts who had Frenchman Pasquale Bruno sent off after 33 minutes for violent conduct.

PSV OVERTAKE AJAX

Ajax Amsterdam's hopes of going back on top of the Dutch first division were dashed by the weather last weekend.

Its soccer match against NAC Breda was postponed because of a frozen pitch.

Ajax lost the top spot when PSV Eindhoven routed Volendam 7-0.

RKC Waalwijk and Feyenoord Rotterdam drew 1-1 in the only match to survive the weekend's freezing conditions.

ENGLAND SEARCH CONTINUES

The Football Association (FA) said last Saturday it will not try to persuade Terry Venables to change his mind about resigning as England coach.

The search for Venables' successor has already run into trouble, with leading candidates like Middlesbrough's Bryan Robson, Newcastle's Kevin Keegan and Chelsea's Glenn Hoddle insisting they do not want the job.

But chief executive Graham Kelly said the FA will not act on the growing clamour to ask Venables to rethink his decision and stay on for the 1998 World Cup.

Kelly, quoted in last Saturday's Daily Mail newspaper, said: "I am well aware of what people have been suggesting but it is not something we will consider."

"The idea of seeking to ask Terry to reconsider is not on the agenda of the five-man sub-committee."

"The last thing we want now is any more uncertainty. We had that either side of Christmas before Terry's decision to leave at the end of the European Championship was made public."

"It is now for us to find a new man. Besides, I am well aware of Terry's thoughts on the matter. The idea of getting him to change his mind is not on."

The FA could now be looking towards Nottingham Forest's Frank Clark.

The 52-year-old has called for the dilemma to be resolved quickly and crucially has not ruled himself out of the running like so many younger candidates.

SPAIN WIN EUROPEAN INDOOR COMPETITION

Spain can now claim the honour of being the first indoor champions of Europe.

Spain became champions after a 5-3 win in the final (2-1 half-time) against Russia in Cordoba while Belgium came third when they overcame Italy by three goals to two.

The tournament was played in Spain between November 24 and December 8.

Ukraine and the Netherlands join the other four countries as European representatives at the World Championships. Their match finished 4-3 to Ukraine.

BRAZIL BEAT BULGARIA

Before a 40,000 crowd at the Mane Garrincha Stadium in Brasilia, the home country beat fellow World Cup Finalists Bulgaria by two goals to nil.

In a rare international in Brazil's isolated national capital, two goals by Savio were sufficient to give the result to the World champions. The game was played last Sunday.

Severe weather plays havoc in Germany

The second half of the German First Division got off to a frosty start, with many games called off because of snow, few goals on frozen pitches and only one team scoring a victory — 1860 Munich over St. Pauli, 2-0, last Saturday.

Defending champion and league leader Borussia Dortmund was held to a 1-1

draw at struggling Kaiserslautern. Eintracht Frankfurt drew 1-1 at Karlsruhe, with both tallies own goals. On Friday, Freiburg and Mönchengladbach played a goalless draw.

Before a sell-out crowd of 38,000 in Kaiserslautern, Dortmund got off to a flying start when young forward Lars Ricken pushed the ball across the line after a defensive error by the home team in the 9th minute.

Czech striker Pavel Kuka equalized for Kaiserslautern in the 23rd. Both team missed several opportunities in the second half. St. Pauli was reduced to 10 men in the 29th minute when Stephan

Hanke was sent off for rough play. They conceded two goals.

Bernd Winkler converted a penalty to put Munich ahead in the last minute of the first half. Polish midfielder Peter Nowak notched the winner in the 59th before 26,100 fans.

Two own goals decided the outcome in Karlsruhe on a frozen pitch before 20,000 fans.

Thomas Ritter deflected a shot from Eintracht Frankfurt's Swedish striker Johnny Ekstroem into his own net in the 12th minute.

Frankfurt's defender Mirko Dickhaut repaid the favour in the 84th



Lars Ricken: Notched Dortmund's goal in the ninth minute.

**UNITED
SIGN
WITH
UMBRO**



Manchester United on Friday clinched what is believed to be British soccer's biggest kit sponsorship and merchandising deal.

United would not reveal the full value of the six-year contract but it was estimated to be worth between \$A81.58 million and \$A122.38 million.

Chairman Martin Edwards confirmed it was a lucrative arrangement and added that his club had considered going into kit manufacturing themselves.

But he said the idea was ruled out in favour of Umbro, the company that provides strips for teams like Brazil and England.

ENGLISH FA CUP

Draws the order of the night in replays

ROUND 4

On a difficult night for Premiership clubs, only Tottenham Hotspur made it through to the fifth round of the FA Cup as five of the seven rescheduled matches ended in draws last Wednesday.

Premiership outfits Nottingham Forest, Britain's sole survivors in European competition, and 1976 Cup winners Southampton were both held to 1-1 draws at home to second division sides.

Forest was denied a place in the last 16 by an Oxford United side, which is 50 places below it in the league, as Stuart Massey grabbed an equaliser two minutes from time to cancel out Kevin Campbell's 53rd minute strike.

Southampton 1 Crewe 1

Premiership rivals Southampton fared no better after failing to capitalise on its chances against Crewe Alexandra, which went ahead at the Dell after just four minutes through Mark Rivers.

But a night of rare glory for Crewe, whose manager Dario Gradi is the longest serving in the English league, was denied by Matthew Le Tissier's 63rd minute leveller.

England outcast Le Tissier, stumbling through a nightmare season, finally showed some of the form that earned him the reputation as his country's most talented player, by floating in a goal from 15 metres.



Matt Le Tissier: His goal saved face for Soton.

But Crewe, which cost just \$A175,000 to assemble, was left rueing a number of chances of its own in the first hour to clinch a place in the last 16 for only the second time since the second world war.

Wolves 0 Spurs 2

Iain Dowie rescued West Ham from a humiliating Cup elimination to struggling first division side Grimsby with a face-saving goal after player-manager Brian Laws had given the visitors a shock lead.

Grimsby had failed to register a victory in its last nine League games, sinking to 13th place in the first division, but the huge army of travelling fans had good reason to celebrate after 25 minutes when left-back Laws struck from close range.

But the Hammers, which had been knocked out by Mansfield, Torquay and Hereford in recent years, gradually regained its confidence before Dowie headed the equaliser on 36 minutes.

Wolves 0 Spurs 2

Tottenham, which has won the FA Cup a record eight times, was the only Premiership side on the night to progress, beating first division Wolverhampton Wanderers with two goals in the first ten minutes in a fourth round replay at Molineux.

The first came after Ruel Fox ran three-quarters of the length of the pitch before slipping a pass for Israeli international Ronnie Rosenthal to prod his shot through the legs of keeper

Mike Stowell.

Teddy Sheringham's 21st goal of the season on nine minutes all but killed the tie as the England striker fired home from an oblique angle.

Coventry 2 Man. City 2

Dion Dublin's dramatic injury time equaliser earned Coventry a replay after a 2-2 draw at home to Premiership rivals Manchester City.

Gary Flitcroft looked certain to have set up a derby in the fifth round at Manchester United a week on Sunday when his first goal of the season put Alan Ball's team in front for the first time with just nine minutes left.

Noel Whelan gave Coventry the lead with just over two minutes on the clock but Coventry failed to build on the striker's sixth goal in 10 games, since signing for around \$A5 million from Leeds United, and gave away the equaliser when David Busst turned Uwe Rosler's skidding low cross into his own net after 33 minutes.

OTHERS...

In the night's other all-Premiership clash, Middlesbrough and Wimbledon ground out a goalless draw.

The other tie to be decided was an all London clash between First Division Charlton Athletic, conquerors of Sheffield Wednesday in the third round, and Second Division Brentford.

Though gutsy Brentford took an early lead, the high riding Charlton won the game 3-2 in the 86th minute

Croatian Corner

BY JOHN VISKOVICH

BEYOND 2000

The Croatia team starring Zvonimir Boban (Milan), Robert Prosinecki (Barcelona), Davor Suker (Real Madrid) and Alen Boksic (Lazio) have a good chance to win Euro 96 and even make it to the finals of the 1998 World Cup.

But who will fill in the shoes of these stars when they retire?

Below are profiles of the next generation of national team hopefuls.

1. Jose Buljbasich Age: 22
Club: Tenerife (Spain)

An Argentinian goalkeeper of Croatian decent. Has already made the big time in Spain and is a hot target for the Croatia in the future.

2. Igor Jovicevic Age: 18
Club: Real Madrid (Spain)

A player with great potential. Has already proven himself as a good young player at the club. He came to the club when he was just 15 from Dinamo Zagreb and is looking to break into the first team now.

3. Daniel Saric Age: 18
Club: Barcelona (Spain)

Currently on loan at Croatia Zagreb but Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff wants him back in the squad after the loan deal is over.

A player with great skill who the



Veldin Karic: Provider of goals.

Spanish club is keen to hang on to.

4. Mirsad Hibic Age: 22
Club: Hajduk Split (Croatia)

Rock solid at the back and the best defender at Hajduk. A young player with great potential which will see him playing in France next season.

5. Darlo Simic Age: 20
Club: Croatia Zagreb (Croatia)

The best defender in the country and he

is still only 20. His efforts at U/21 level will be rewarded with playing for Croatia in Euro 96.

Was targeted by AC Milan a month ago with a contract but didn't sign.

6. Ivica Vastic Age: 23
Club: Strum Graz (Austria)

Voted the best player in Austria for '95. An honour few players his age have achieved. Uncapped by Croatia but recent form has made him hard to leave out of the squad.

Sadly Austria have offered him a starring role for their team, an offer Vastic might still accept.

7. Mario Stanic Age: 22 Club: Club Brugge (Belgium)

Currently top goalscorer in Belgium and he should finish on top by the end of the season. Scored five goals in one match on debut.

Italian clubs have already made offers for the Croatian midfielder. Should find himself in the Serie A next season.

8. Veldin Karic Age: 22
Club: Torino (Italy)

Starting for Torino with some great passing which have led to a host of goals for his team mates. Recently has been on the score sheet himself.

Has previously represented Croatia at Under 21 level. But sadly won't be picked to go to England with Croatia.

9. Goran Vlaovic Age: 22
Club: Padova (Italy)

Has become a prolific goalscorer in Italy of late and is set for big things. Will be joining Inter Milan next season if Padova get relegated from Serie A.

10. Josko Jelecic Age: 23
Club: Seville (Spain)

Will most likely be the captain and one of a few who can successfully replace Zvonimir Boban at National team level.

Highly rated in Europe for his set pieces and overall skill.

11. Ivica Mornar Age: 21
Club: E. Frankfurt (Germany)

The most talked about player in eastern Europe at junior level. Has made a great move to Germany where he is proving to be a classy forward.

Was voted the best player at indoor soccer in Germany. The fans call him "Rambo-Tor". Will join Torino next season in the Serie A.



Goran Vlaovic: Prolific goalscorer in Italy.

OTHER PLAYERS OF THE FUTURE...

12. Goran Vucevic Age: 23 Club: Barcelona (Spain)

13. Marjan Kovacevic Age: 21 Club: Hamburg (Germany)

14. Zoran Ban Age: 22 Club: Juventus (Italy) loan Boavistas (Portugal)

15. Krasimir Drasin Age: 17 Club: Bayern Munich (Germany)

16. Darko Peric Age: 17 Club: Bayern Munich (Germany)

17. Milan Repacic Age: 22 Club: Hajduk Split (Croatia)

18. Igor Cvitanovic Age: 21 Club: Cro Zagreb (Croatia)

19. Robert Spehar Age: 23 Club: Club Brugge (Belgium)

20. Nenad Bjelica Age: 21 Club: Albacete (Spain)

For more Croatian Sports News tune into Cro 2000 on Wednesday nights at 8.15pm on Sydney Radio 98.5FM.

Hammer's Lazaridis breaks leg

Australian star Stan Lazaridis (right) has broken a leg in England and could be out of action for at least a couple of months.

The former West Adelaide winger sustained the injury playing for London club West Ham United in its FA Cup fourth round tie against Grimsby last Wednesday.

Confirming the extent of the damage, West Ham manager Harry Redknapp said: "He will be out for the rest of the season."

Perth-born Lazaridis is the second Soccerroo to break a leg playing in England in recent months.

The other, Leicester City's Aussie striker Steve Corica, only recently returned to action.

But Lazaridis' injury is a serious setback for West Ham on top of last week's decision by Britain's Department of Employment to turn down the Hammers' application for a renewed work permit for its new \$A3.09 million signing, Romanian Ilie Dumitrescu (see story this page).

Lazaridis was injured after manager Redknapp sent the winger on as a second half replacement for the Hammers' other Soccerroo Robbie Slater.

With Lazaridis taking up position on the left wing and teammate Michael Hughes switching to the right, the pair combined in the 56th minute to go closer than anyone to breaking a 1-1 deadlock.

The Australian chipped over a cross from the byline but Hughes' header scraped over the bar with the goalkeeper beaten.



CANNABIS GAINS TWO MONTH BAN

Cannes defender Gilles Hampartzoumian was suspended for two months after testing positive for cannabis, the French football federation said last Thursday.

Hampartzoumian, who tested positive after a league match last October, was banned by the federation's doping commission on Thursday. He did not appeal.

EXILE FOR STARS IN ENGLAND

World Cup stars Ilie Dumitrescu and Marc Hottiger were facing exile from the English Premiership last week after having work permit requests rejected.

The international stars will appeal against Department of Employment (DoE) decisions which mean they can no longer pursue their football careers in England.

West Ham, which agreed to pay Tottenham \$A3.09 million for Romanian Dumitrescu, and Everton, set to buy Switzerland's Hottiger from Newcastle for \$A1,645,400, reacted furiously to the rulings.

The quality of the pair with almost 100 international caps between them is not in question. Dumitrescu starred in the 1994 World Cup finals and both are expected to figure in the European Championship finals this summer.

But they have fallen short of the DoE requirement for foreign players who must appear in 75 percent of their club's first team fixtures to qualify for a new work permit.

EUROPEAN CUP COULD EXPAND

An unprecedented meeting between UEFA and Europe's top soccer clubs reached broad agreement last Wednesday to grant leading nations a second team in the European Cup but ruled out any early move towards a super league.

UEFA president Lennart Johansson (pictured), under pressure to extend international competition among big clubs, proposed expanding the European Cup from 24 to 32 teams with top nations entering a second side in the competition.



The plan would give nations such as Italy, Spain, England and Germany the chance to enter teams such as AC Milan, Real Madrid, Manchester United and Bayern Munich even when they had not won their domestic championship.

WIDE SUPPORT FROM CLUBS

"The UEFA plan was widely supported by the clubs and we were very satisfied with the discussions," said UEFA media director Frits Ahlstrom.

"The details of the plan have still to be worked out and there are refinements to be made. It seemed there was no general backing for a super league and even the big clubs recognised that European competition should run alongside domestic leagues."

Under Johansson's plan, the 32 teams in the European Cup would play each other in a preliminary knockout each season to determine the 16 who would play in the Champions' League. Losers would go into the UEFA Cup.

The defending European champions and the champions of the 23 best-ranked nations would be entered in the original 32 along with eight more from countries granted a second, non-champion team selected by a special formula.

CRITERIA TO BE WORKED OUT

Ahlstrom said the formula for which non-champion teams should take part had yet to be worked out but would probably be based on their European record over the previous 10 years and possibly also on their league placings in that period.

Franz Beckenbauer, representing Bayern Munich, expressed the view that teams should finish no lower than fifth in their domestic league to have a chance of playing in the European Cup and his idea was generally supported.

English Premier League chief executive Rick Parry said today's meeting, grouping 33 top clubs from the leading 12 nations had been positive.

"We're talking about evolution rather than revolution here and that's a good thing," he said. "UEFA have to find a delicate balance to satisfy the needs of the big clubs while protecting the interests of the smaller ones."

The meeting was purely a forum for discussion rather than decision and UEFA is unlikely to come up with a detailed plan until its executive meeting next month.

LIMIT SIZE OF DOMESTIC COMPS

Among other ideas put forward was one by Belgium's Standard Liege to limit domestic leagues to 16 teams to give more space to European competition.

Dutch club Feyenoord suggested scrapping the Champions' League and UEFA Cup and starting a European League with four geographical competitions but the idea appeared to have little backing.

The meeting was due to discuss the effects of the Bosman ruling later in the day.

UEFA and European soccer have been thrown into confusion by December's ruling that fees for international transfers for out-of-contract players are illegal within the European community as are nationality restrictions on EU players.

There are fears among federations and smaller clubs that this could cause chaos in the international market with a few big clubs grabbing all the best players while many of the rest go to the wall.

DRAW in EUROPEAN SUPER CUP

European champions Ajax Amsterdam held out for a draw in Spain against Cup Winners' Cup holders Real Zaragoza in the first leg of the European Super Cup last Monday.

Zaragoza had the better of a game in which Ajax, who played with several substitutes, were a pale shadow of the team that destroyed Real Madrid in their last visit to Spain for a European Champions' League group match three months ago.

Zaragoza pressurised the Ajax defence hard in the first half, forcing the Dutch to pass back to goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar on several occasions.

Mohamed Nayim came close to scoring from near the halfway line in the 28th minute after volleying back one van der Sar clearance with an effort reminiscent of his spectacular last-minute goal that won the Cup Winners' Cup final against Arsenal last May.

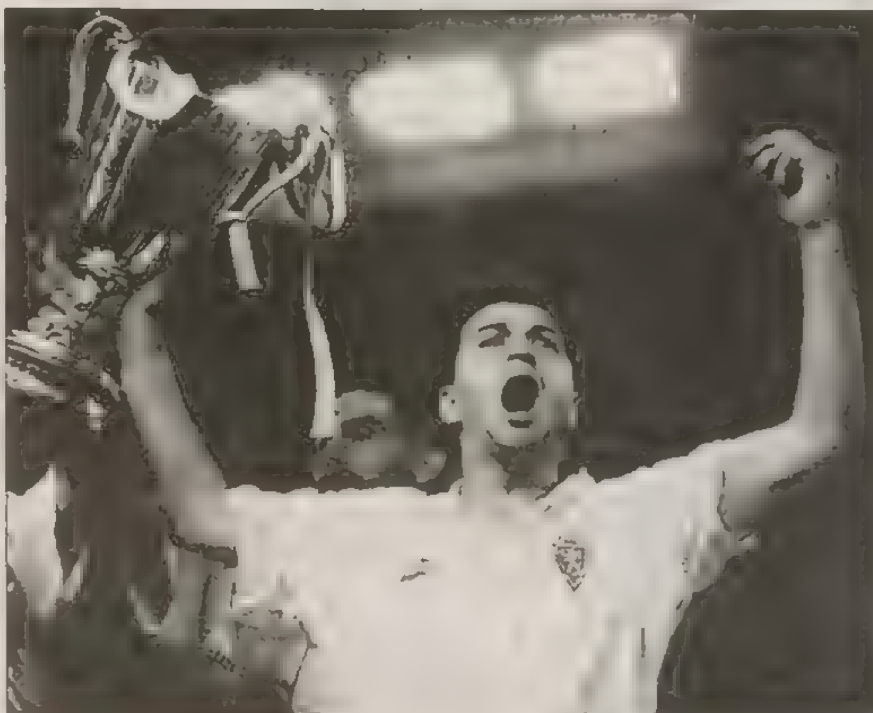
A minute later Zaragoza went ahead when Xavier Aguado headed home a corner unmarked.

Ajax woke up in the second half, giving Zaragoza particular trouble on the break and down the right wing.

The equaliser came from a counter-attack in the 71st minute when Patrick Kluivert, scorer of the goal which won the European Cup Final against AC Milan, slipped through the offside trap to blast the ball past Juanmi Garcia.

Zaragoza had several penalty appeals turned down, including one in the 64th minute when forward Dani Garcia was apparently brought down in the area by Frank de Boer as he burst through from the right.

Zaragoza must now score at least once in the return leg in Amsterdam, where they will



Mohamed Nayim: His volley from a van der Sar clearance came close.

welcome back playmakers Gustavo Poyet and Santiago Aragon, both of whom were unable to play in the home first leg because of yellow cards picked up in the Cup Winners' Cup competition.

Real Zaragoza: 1-Juanmi Garcia, 2-Alberto Belsue, 3-Jesus Solana, 4-Luis Cuartero, 5-Oscar Celada, 6-Xavier Aguado, 7-Gustavo Lopez (16-Miguel Pardeza, 74th minute), 8-Mohamed

Nayim, 9-Fernando Morientes, 10-Francisco Higuera, 11-Dani Garcia (14-Sergio Berti, 74).

Ajax Amsterdam: 1-Edwin van der Sar, 2-Michael Reiziger, 3-Danny Blind, 4-Frank de Boer, 5-Winston Bogarde, 6-Arnold Scholten, 7-Finidi George, 8-Kiki Musampa (14-Van den Bergh, 51), 9-Patrick Kluivert, 10-Jari Litmanen (16-Nordin Wooters, 68) 11-Ronald de Boer.

Crowd: 23,000.

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Bolton 0 Aston Villa 2 (Yorke 40th, 53rd) Half-time 0-1. Attendance: 18,099
 Coventry 1 (Whelan 43rd) Chelsea 0. 1-0. 20,639
 Everton 2 (Parkinson 32nd, Hinchcliffe 47th pen) Manchester City 0. 1-0. 37,354
 Manchester United 1 (Sharpe 14th) Blackburn 0. 1-0. 42,681
 Middlesbrough 1 (Beresford 37th own goal) Newcastle 2 (Watson 74th, Ferdinand 78th) 1-0. 30,011
 Nottingham Forest 0 Arsenal 1 (Bergkamp 60th) 0-0. 27,222
 Sheffield Wednesday 2 (Degryse 50th, Watts 85th) Wimbledon 1 (Gayle 61st) 0-0. 19,085.
 Leeds.....P Southampton.....P
 QPR.....1 Liverpool.....2
 Playing Monday: Tottenham v West Ham

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Crystal Palace.....0 Sheffield Utd.....0
 Derby.....0 Wolverhampton.....0
 Luton.....3 Grimsby.....2
 Millwall.....1 Reading.....1
 Oldham.....2 Norwich.....0
 Portsmouth.....2 Leicester.....1
 Stoke.....3 Ipswich.....1
 Sunderland.....0 Port Vale.....0
 Tranmere.....1 Bamsley.....3
 Watford.....1 Charlton.....2
 West Bromwich.....3 Southend.....1
 Birmingham.....P Huddersfield.....P

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Bradford.....0 Stockport.....1
 Bristol City.....3 Bournemouth.....0
 Burnley.....0 Crewe.....1
 Carlisle.....2 Brentford.....1
 Hull.....1 Bristol Rovers.....3
 Oxford Utd.....1 Brighton.....1
 Peterborough.....2 Shrewsbury.....2
 Swansea.....0 Swindon.....1
 Walsall.....0 Notts County.....0
 Wycombe.....0 Blackpool.....1
 York.....2 Rotherham.....2
 Wrexham.....P Chesterfield.....P

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Colchester.....1 Wigan.....2
 Doncaster.....0 Bury.....1
 Fulham.....2 Hartlepool.....2
 Gillingham.....2 Torquay.....0
 Leyton Orient.....4 Cardiff.....1
 Northampton.....1 Darlington.....1
 Preston.....0 Barnet.....1
 Rochdale.....0 Scarborough.....2
 Scunthorpe.....1 Plymouth.....1
 Chester.....P Cambridge Utd.....P
 Exeter.....P Mansfield.....P
 Hereford.....P Lincoln.....P

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Falkirk.....0 Celtic.....0
 Hearts.....1 Aberdeen.....3
 Partick.....0 Kilmarnock.....1
 Raith.....1 Hibernian.....0
 Rangers.....3 Motherwell.....2

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Airdrieonians.....1 Dunfermline.....2
 Clydebank.....1 St Mirren.....2
 Dumbarton.....P Hamilton.....P
 Dundee Utd.....P Greenock Morton.....P
 St Johnstone.....P Dundee.....P

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Berwick.....2 Stenhousemuir.....1

Stranraer.....0 East Fife.....0
 Forfar.....P Queen of South.....P
 Montrose.....P Clyde.....P
 Stirling.....P Ayr.....P

SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE

Livingston.....1 Alloa.....0
 Queen's Park.....2 East Stirling.....2
 Arbroath.....P Caledonian Thistle.....P
 Cowdenbeath.....P Brechin.....P
 Ross County.....P Albion.....P

F.A. CUP FOURTH ROUND

— February 6 —

Huddersfield.....2 Peterborough.....0
 (Huddersfield at home to Middlesbrough or Wimbledon in fifth round)
 Postponed: Bolton v Leeds (to Feb 14),
 Ipswich v Walsall (to Feb 13)

— February 7 —

Charlton.....3 Brentford.....2
 (Charlton away to Shrewsbury or Liverpool in the fifth round)
 Coventry.....2 Manchester City.....2
 (eventual winner away to Manchester United)
 Middlesbrough.....0 Wimbledon.....0
 (eventual winner away to Huddersfield)
 Southampton.....1 Crewe.....1
 (eventual winner away to Swindon or Oldham)
 Nottingham Forest.....1 Oxford United.....1
 (eventual winner home to Tottenham)
 West Ham.....1 Grimsby.....1
 (eventual winner home to Chelsea)
 (Page 22: Match Reports)

REPLAY

Wolverhampton.....0 Tottenham.....2
 (Tottenham away to Nottingham Forest or Oxford)

NORTHERN IRISH PREMIER DIVISION

Crusaders.....19 12 2 5 29 20 38
 Portadown.....18 9 6 3 39 22 33
 Glentoran.....19 9 5 5 40 26 32
 Glenavon.....18 9 3 6 27 18 30
 Linfield.....19 7 6 6 24 24 27
 Cliftonville.....19 4 6 9 16 34 18
 Ards.....19 4 5 10 22 29 17
 Bangor.....19 3 3 13 13 37 12

TURKEY'S FIRST DIVISION

Genclerbirliigi.....1 Besiktas.....2
 Trabzonspor.....0 Gaziantepspor.....0
 Altay.....2 Galatasaray.....5
 Istanbulspor.....0 Ankaragucu.....0
 Denizlispor.....2 Kayserispor.....2
 Antalyaspor.....1 Kocaelispor.....1
 Fenerbahce.....6 Eskisehirspor.....0
 Samsunspor.....1 Bursaspor.....0
 Vanspor.....1 Karsiyaka.....1

TABLE

Trabzonspor.....19 15 3 1 46 13 48
 Fenerbahce.....19 15 3 1 42 12 48
 Besiktas.....19 13 3 3 48 22 42
 Galatasaray.....19 13 2 4 41 22 41
 Kocaelispor.....19 7 8 4 27 23 29
 Gaziantepspor.....19 7 7 5 24 16 28
 Antalyaspor.....19 7 5 7 29 32 26
 Genclerbirliigi.....19 6 7 6 27 29 25
 Bursaspor.....19 6 6 7 35 30 24
 Samsunspor.....19 7 2 10 24 25 23
 Ankaragucu.....19 6 4 9 22 33 22
 Denizlispor.....19 4 8 7 20 29 20
 Altay.....19 6 2 11 20 38 20
 Karsiyaka.....19 5 4 10 16 36 19
 Istanbulspor.....19 4 5 10 23 32 17
 Vanspor.....19 3 5 11 12 30 14
 Eskisehirspor.....19 4 1 14 24 41 13
 Kayserispor.....19 2 7 10 20 37 13

KING'S CUP - THAILAND

Thailand 1 Finland 0 (halftime 0-0)
 Scorer: Natipong Sritong-In (75th minute)
 Romania 2 Denmark 2 (half-time 2-1)
 Scorers:
 Romania - Ion Vladoiu (20th pen), Daniel Prodan (45th)
 Denmark - Jacob Laursen (36th), Erik Bo Andersen (74th)
 Thailand.....0 Romania.....3
 (halftime 0-1)
 Scorers: Ilie Mugural (2nd, 61st and 83rd)
 Denmark.....0 Finland.....0

MALTESE FOUR-TEAM TOURNAMENT

Slovenia 7 Iceland 1 (halftime 1-1)
 Scorers: Slovenia - Saso Udovic (41st minute, 47th, 57th, 69th, 74th and 79th), Ermin Siljak (85th)
 Iceland - Alafur Thorderson (40th minute)
 Russia 2 Malta 0 (1-0)
 Scorers: Valery Karpine (25th), Serguei Kirakov (63rd).
 Russia 3 Slovenia 1 (halftime 2-0)
 Scorers: Russia - Igor Simontenkov (13th, 77th mins), Andrei Alenichev (18th)
 Slovenia - Primoz Giliha (87th penalty)
 Iceland 4 Malta 1 (4-0)
 Scorers: Iceland - Alafur Thorderson (6th), Thordur Gudjansson (27th, 35th), Amar Greitarsson (45th)
 Malta - Anton Zahra (69th)

PORTUGUESE CUP SIX ROUND

Portimonense.....0 Uniao Leiria.....1
 Replay:
 Porto.....1 Lamego.....0
 (first match 1-1)

PORTUGUESE FIRST DIVISION

— February 11 —

Tirsense.....2 Salgueiros.....0
 Estrela Amadora.....2 Uniao Leiria.....4
 Gil Vicente.....3 Campomaiorense.....1
 Chaves.....1 Braga.....0
 Porto.....6 Feigueras.....2
 Sporting.....5 Farense.....0
 Guimaraes.....6 Mantimo.....0
 Belenense.....1 Benfica.....0
 Leca.....0 Boavista.....2

TABLE

Porto.....22 19 3 0 61 7 60
 Boavista.....22 14 5 3 40 16 47
 Sporting.....22 14 4 4 47 17 46
 Benfica.....22 14 4 4 37 22 46
 Maritimo.....22 11 3 8 32 29 36
 Belenenses.....22 10 6 6 33 20 36
 Guimaraes.....22 10 4 8 34 25 34
 Salgueiros.....22 6 11 5 25 25 29
 Uniao Leiria.....22 9 2 11 27 40 29
 Braga.....22 7 7 8 24 28 28
 Feigueras.....22 6 7 9 24 30 25
 Gil Vicente.....22 5 8 9 21 30 23
 Leca.....22 6 4 12 18 33 22
 Amadora.....22 5 7 10 23 36 22
 Chaves.....22 4 6 12 24 39 18
 Tirsense.....22 4 6 12 17 36 18
 Tirsense.....22 4 6 12 17 36 18
 Farense.....22 4 3 15 15 35 15
 Campomaiorense.....22 4 2 16 16 50 14

SPANISH FIRST DIVISION

— February 11 —

Atletico Madrid.....0 Sevilla.....1
 Barcelona.....3 Real Madrid.....0
 Valencia.....3 Rayo Vallecano.....0
 Real Betis.....2 Real Oviedo.....1
 Compostela.....3 Zaragoza.....2
 Albacete.....1 Deportivo Coruna.....0
 Salamanca.....2 Merida.....2
 Sporting Gijon.....1 Athletic Bilbao.....2
 Real Sociedad.....3 Celta Vigo.....1
 Tenerife.....1 Valladolid.....0
 Racing Santander.....1 Espanyol.....1

TABLE

Atletico Madrid.....26 18 4 4 47 14 58
 Barcelona.....26 14 8 4 48 21 50
 Compostela.....26 15 4 7 36 30 49
 Valencia.....26 15 3 8 49 34 48
 Espanyol.....26 13 9 4 36 19 48
 Real Madrid.....26 12 6 8 49 37 42
 Tenerife.....26 11 9 6 41 38 42
 Real Betis.....26 10 11 5 37 30 41
 Deportivo Coruna.....26 11 6 9 43 22 39
 Real Sociedad.....26 10 7 9 33 33 37
 Celta Vigo.....26 8 8 10 27 32 32
 Athletic Bilbao.....26 8 8 10 29 37 32
 Zaragoza.....26 7 8 11 29 37 29
 Oviedo.....26 7 8 11 27 36 29
 Sporting Gijon.....26 8 4 14 33 37 28
 Albacete.....26 6 9 11 37 49 27
 Racing Santander.....26 6 9 12 27 44 27
 Sevilla.....26 6 8 12 24 39 26

Rayo Vallecano.....26 6 7 13 27 45 25
 Merida.....26 4 12 10 21 36 24
 Salamanca.....26 5 8 13 36 47 23
 Valladolid.....26 4 8 14 30 47 20

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

— February 11 —

Apollon.....3 Xanthi.....1
 Aris.....2 Ionikos.....0
 Edessikos.....1 Kalamata.....0
 OFI.....1 Larissa.....0
 Panathinaikos.....0 Athinaikos.....0
 Panahaiki.....1 AEK.....1
 PAOK.....2 Panionios.....0
 Ethnikos.....1 Iraklis.....4
 Paniliakos.....0 Olympiakos.....0

TABLE

AEK.....20 16 2 2 53 13 50
 Panathinaikos.....20 15 4 1 45 12 49
 Olympiakos.....20 14 5 1 47 17 47
 OFI.....20 11 3 6 41 33 36
 Iraklis.....20 8 5 7 27 25 29
 Edessaikos.....20 8 5 7 30 35 29
 Ionikos.....20 7 4 9 26 28 25
 Apollon.....20 6 6 8 29 29 24
 Paniliakos.....20 6 6 8 26 28 24
 Aris.....20 6 6 8 22 26 24
 Xanthi.....20 6 6 8 26 32 24
 Kalamata.....20 6 6 8 27 34 24
 Panahaiki.....20 7 3 10 18 29 24
 Athinaikos.....20 7 3 10 27 28 24
 PAOK.....20 5 7 8 24 27 19
 Panionios.....20 4 4 12 22 35 16
 Larissa.....20 4 4 12 16 41 16
 Ethnikos.....20 3 3 14 20 43 12

Note: PAOK had three points deducted for crowd violence.

GERMAN FIRST DIVISION

Kaiserslautern.....1 Borussia Dortmund.....1
 Karlsruhe.....1 Eintracht Frankfurt.....1
 1860 Munich.....2 St Pauli.....0
 Freiburg.....0 Borussia M'gladbach.....0
 Fortuna Duesseidorf.....P Werder Bremen.....P
 Schalke.....P Cologne.....P
 Bayer Leverkusen.....P Hansa Rostock.....P
 Uerdingen.....P VfB Stuttgart.....P
 Hamburg.....2 Bayern Munich.....1

TABLE

Borussia Dortmund.....18 12 5 1 45 21 41
 Bayern Munich.....18 12 2 4 37 20 38
 Hamburg.....18 7 8 3 31 24 29
 Borussia M'gladbach.....18 9 2 7 28 31 29
 VfB Stuttgart.....17 7 7 3 38 31 28
 Bayer Leverkusen.....17 6 7 4 22 15 25
 Hansa Rostock.....17 6 7 4 28 22 25
 Schalke.....17 6 7 4 21 23 25
 1860 Munich.....18 5 6 7 24 26 21
 Eintracht Frankfurt.....18 5 6 7 30 34 21
 St Pauli.....18 5 5 8 27 31 20
 Karlsruhe.....18 4 7 7 24 30 19
 Kaiserslautern.....18 3 9 6 19 25 18
 Cologne.....17 3 8 6 18 22 17
 Werder Bremen.....17 3 8 6 17 23 17
 Freiburg.....18 4 5 9 12 23 17
 Uerdingen.....17 2 8 7 15 22 14
 Fortuna Duesseidorf.....17 2 7 8 16 29 13

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

— February 7 —

Monaco.....1 Paris St Germain.....0
 Le Havre.....0 Nice.....0
 Cannes.....1 Bordeaux.....1
 Lyon.....5 Martignes.....1
 Nantes.....3 Bastia.....1
 Lens.....1 Lille.....1
 Note: Montpellier v Guingamp, Rennes v Metz,
 Strasbourg v Auxerre and Gueugnon v St Etienne
 were postponed because of bad weather.

— February 11 —

Auxerre.....2 Lyon.....0
 Bastia.....3 Lens.....2
 Guingamp.....3 Nantes.....1
 Martignes.....1 Rennes.....2
 Nice.....2 Strasbourg.....2
 Bordeaux.....3 Le Havre.....1
 Lille.....2 Gueugnon.....0
 Paris St Germain.....2 Montpellier.....3
 Metz.....P Monaco.....P
 St Etienne.....P Cannes.....P

LEADING

GOALSCORERS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

30 - Alan Shearer (Blackburn)
 25 - Les Ferdinand (Newcastle)
 24 - Robbie Fowler (Liverpool)
 21 - Teddy Sheringham (Tottenham)
 19 - Ian Wright (Arsenal)
 16 - Dwight Yorke (Aston Villa)
 15 - Tony Yeboah (Leeds)
 14 - Dion Dublin (Coventry)
 13 - Chris Armstrong (Tottenham)

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

TABLE

Paris St Germain	27	14	9	4	50	24	51
Auxerre	26	15	3	8	43	23	48
Metz	24	12	8	4	24	16	44
Monaco	26	12	7	7	38	27	43
Lens	27	10	13	4	30	20	43
Quingamp	26	11	9	6	24	18	42
Montpellier	26	11	7	8	37	32	40
Nantes	27	10	10	7	31	29	40
Rennes	26	10	9	7	31	30	39
Bastia	27	11	5	11	37	36	38
Strasbourg	26	8	10	8	34	28	34
Nice	27	9	7	11	29	30	34
Bordeaux	27	9	5	13	31	37	32
Lyon	25	6	12	8	30	31	30
Le Havre	27	7	8	12	22	35	29
Lille	27	6	10	11	21	33	28
Saint-Etienne	25	5	11	9	27	38	26
Cannes	26	6	6	14	28	40	24
Queugnon	26	4	10	12	17	34	22
Martigues	27	6	3	18	22	45	21

BELGIAN FIRST DIVISION

— February 11 —

Aalst	2	Ghent	2
Molenbeek	3	Standard Liege	1
Waregem	1	Mechelen	1
Club Brugge	2	Anderlecht	1
Ekeren	2	Antwerp	0
Lierse	0	Cercle Brugge	1
Seraing	1	Beveren	0
St-Truiden	2	Harelbeke	0
Charleroi	5	Lommel	0

TABLE

Club Brugge	23	16	5	2	55	20	53
Anderlecht	23	15	3	5	60	24	48
Lierse	23	10	7	6	37	29	37
Cercle Brugge	23	9	9	5	36	30	36
Molenbeek	23	9	8	6	26	23	35
Ekeren	23	9	7	7	36	28	34
Standard Liege	23	8	9	6	33	27	33
Charleroi	23	8	9	6	41	38	33
Mechelen	23	9	5	9	27	32	32
Antwerp	23	8	5	10	29	31	29
Lommel	23	8	5	10	25	34	29
Ghent	23	7	8	8	27	35	29
Aalst	23	7	7	9	30	33	28
Harelbeke	23	8	3	12	26	32	27
Sint-Truiden	23	7	5	11	28	42	26
Seraing	23	6	4	6	28	49	22
Beveren	23	4	7	11	20	34	19
Waregem	23	3	6	13	20	47	15

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

— February 11 —

RKC Waalwijk	1	Feyenoord R'dam	1
NEC Nijmegen	0	Fortuna Sittard	2
PSV Eindhoven	7	Volendam	0
Willem II Tilburg	0	Vitesse Arnhem	5
De Graafschap	P	Heerenveen	P
Roda JC	P	Utrecht	P
Ajax	P	NAC Breda	P

TABLE

Ajax Amsterdam	20	17	2	1	65	10	53
PSV Eindhoven	21	17	2	2	75	13	53
Feyenoord Rotterdam	22	11	6	5	46	29	39
Willem II Tilburg	21	8	9	4	39	27	33
Vitesse Arnhem	22	9	6	7	35	32	33
Heerenveen	20	8	8	4	33	32	32
Sparta Rotterdam	22	8	8	6	33	37	32
NAC Breda	21	7	9	5	32	22	30
Roda JC Kerkrade	21	7	8	6	23	23	29
RKC Waalwijk	22	8	5	9	26	30	28
Oroningen	21	6	9	6	26	31	27
Twente Enschede	21	7	5	9	26	33	26
Fortuna Sittard	22	5	8	9	17	35	23
NEC Nijmegen	22	4	6	12	22	51	18
De O. Doetinchem	21	3	6	12	25	45	15
Utrecht	21	3	6	12	16	39	15
Volendam	21	3	5	13	16	48	14
QAE Deventer	19	2	6	11	22	40	12

ALBANIAN FIRST DIVISION

— February 11 —

Besa	1	Tirana	0
Laci	2	Kastrioti	1
Partizani	0	Beslidhja	0
Skenderbeu	0	Tomori	0

Shkumbini	1	Elbasani	0
Atletpetrol	1	Sopoti	0
Vllaznia	1	Flamurtari	2
Shqiponja	0	Teuta	0
Apollonia	1	Olimpik	0

TABLE

Teuta	19	12	5	2	28	11	32
Tirana	19	10	5	4	25	13	29
Besa	19	10	4	5	21	12	26
Flamurtari	19	10	3	6	25	18	26
Partizani	19	9	4	6	23	16	26
Olimpiku	19	10	3	6	28	16	25
Apollonia	19	8	5	6	28	21	23
Tomori	19	6	7	6	17	17	19
Atletpetrol	19	7	4	8	17	20	19
Shqiponja	19	6	4	9	17	20	18
Sopoti	19	6	5	8	15	19	18
Vllaznia	19	5	6	8	15	20	17
Shkumbini	19	5	7	7	15	20	17
Elbasani	19	5	5	9	14	22	16
Laci	19	6	3	10	23	29	15
Kastrioti	19	5	4	10	17	25	15
Beslidhja	19	5	4	10	8	21	15
Skenderbeu	19	5	3	11	18	34	13

Note: Three points for an away win, two points for a home win and one point for a draw.

CYPRUS FIRST DIVISION

— February 11 —

Apoel	1	Olympiakos	0
AEK	3	Apollon	0
Aris	1	Omonia	4
Anorthosis	3	Salamania	2
Evagoras	2	Paralimni	2
Ethnikos	2	Aradippou	1
AEL	2	Alki	3

TABLE

APOEL Nicosia	15	12	3	0	37	12	39
AEK Lamaca	15	11	1	3	28	12	34
Omonia Nicosia	15	10	3	2	39	18	33
Anorthosis Famagusta	15	8	5	2	32	16	29
Paralimni	15	6	5	4	25	21	23
Apollon Limassol	15	6	5	4	19	15	23
Alki Lamaca	15	6	4	5	27	28	22
Ethnikos Ahna	15	5	5	5	19	21	20
Aris Limassol	15	3	7	5	17	20	16
AEL Limassol	15	4	2	9	22	33	14
Olympiakos Nicosia	15	3	3	9	9	18	12
Salamina Famagusta	15	3	2	10	16	30	11
Evagoras Paphos	15	2	5	8	14	29	11
Omonia Aradippou	15	0	2	13	14	45	2

FRIENDLY INTERNATIONAL

Spain 1 Norway 0 (halftime 1-0)
Scorer: Kiko Narvaez (44th minute)
Attendance: 19,000
Lebanon 1 Ecuador 0
Scorer: Wartan Ghazarian (14th min)

MOROCCAN FIRST DIVISION

— February 11 —

Sidi Kacem	1	Tanger	0
Ittihad Casablanca	1	Mohammedia	0
Raja Casablanca	1	Jeunesse Massira	1
Marrakesh	3	Meknes	0
Oujda	1	Khouribga	0
Sporting Sale	2	Widad Casablanca	1
Settat	1	El Jadida	0
Tetouan	0	Royal Armed Forces	0

TABLE

Raja Casablanca	17	11	4	2	31	9	37
Mohammedia	18	7	8	3	16	11	29
Khouribga	18	8	5	3	19	16	29
Sidi Kacem	18	8	4	6	25	15	28
Settat	18	8	3	7	16	21	27
Ittihad Casablanca	18	7	5	6	22	22	26
Marrakesh	18	7	4	7	18	17	25
Royal Armed Forces	16	5	9	2	13	7	24
Meknes	18	6	6	6	18	19	24
Jeunesse Massira	17	5	8	4	16	15	23
Widad Casablanca	18	5	6	7	17	18	21
Tetouan	18	4	9	7	16	20	21
Sporting Sale	18	5	5	8	20	27	20
Oujda	18	3	10	5	9	18	19
El Jadida	18	4	4	10	13	22	16
Tanger	18	2	4	12	7	20	10

Hamburg deny Bayern

Two goals in the final five minutes gave Hamburg a 2-1 win over Bayern Munich and wrecked latter's hopes of drawing level with Borussia Dortmund at the top of the German Bundesliga last Sunday.

Midfielder Mehmet Scholl, scorer of the opening goal in the 28th minute, had appeared set to put Bayern 2-0 ahead in their first match after the winter break. But he missed in the 85th minute with only

goalkeeper Richard Goltz to beat.

Hamburg immediately turned the tables, setting up Karsten Baeron for a close-range shot which goalkeeper Oliver Kahn could only parry into the path of Andre Breitenreiter.

Scenting that their consistent pressure could pay off against a Bayern team content to counter-attack on a frozen pitch, Hamburg released midfielder Harald

Spoerl down the right.

Spoerl looped the ball 30 metres to Baeron on the edge of the box who headed it down sweetly for substitute Uwe Jaehrig to drive the ball low past Kahn.

Hamburg, rejuvenated under coach Felix Magath, moved into third place on 29 points from 18 matches. Bayern remained second on 38 points, three adrift of Dortmund which drew 1-1 at Kaiserslautern.

EXTRA GAMES in EURO '96 build-up

The following friendlies and other matches have so far been arranged by the finalists in this summer's European Championship.

Dates and venues for some of the matches, especially those in May and June could change later, while matches still provisionally arranged or where opposition has not yet been confirmed are indicated as tbc — to be confirmed.

Germany is playing two matches not deemed full internationals, against Bayer Leverkusen, a testimonial for retired international striker Rudi Voeller on May 21, and Liechtenstein on June 4.

Romania and Denmark will be playing only with home-based players in the King's Cup competition in Thailand.

Feb 7	Spain v Norway	Las Palmas
Feb 7	Malta v Russia	Valletta, Malta
Feb 9	Iceland v Russia	Valletta, Malta
Feb 9	Denmark v Romania	Bangkok (King's Cup)
Feb 11	Slovenia v Russia	Valletta, Malta
Feb 11	Thailand v Romania	Bangkok (King's Cup)
Feb 11	Denmark v Finland	Bangkok (King's Cup)
Feb 13	Thailand v Denmark	Bangkok (King's Cup)
Feb 13	Romania v Finland	Bangkok (King's Cup)
Feb 14	Netherlands v Belgium	Eindhoven
Feb 16	3rd/4th place and final	Bangkok (King's Cup)
Feb 21	Portugal v Germany	Oporto
Feb 21	France v Greece	Nimes
Feb 21/28	Croatia v Poland	Rijeka

March 13	Luxembourg v Switzerland	Luxembourg
March 27	Germany v Denmark	Munich
March 27	Austria v Switzerland	Vienna
March 27	England v Bulgaria	London
March 27	Belgium v France	Brussels
March 27	Croatia v Israel	Zagreb or Varazdin
March 27	Scotland v to be confirmed	tbc
March 27	Portugal v Greece	tbc
March 27	Czech Republic v Turkey	Prague

April 9	Azerbaijan v Turkey	Baku (tbc)
April 24	Netherlands v Germany	Rotterdam
April 24	Denmark v Scotland	Copenhagen
April 24	Norway v Spain	Oslo
April 24	Czech Republic v Ireland	Prague
April 24	England v Croatia	London
April 24	Bulgaria v Switzerland	tbc
April 24	Belgium v Russia	Brussels (tbc)

May 1	Turkey v tbc	Turkey
May 18	England v Hungary	London
May 21	Germany XI v Bayer Leverkusen	Rudi Voeller Testimonial
May 22	Croatia v Bosnia	tbc
May 28	Northern Ireland v Germany	Belfast
May 29	Bulgaria v tbc	tbc
May 29	France v Finland	Strasbourg (tbc)
May 29	Russia v Yugoslavia	tbc

June 1	Hungary v Italy	Budapest
June 1	Germany v France	Stuttgart
June 1/2	Switzerland v Czech Republic	Switzerland
June 2	Denmark v Ghana	Copenhagen
June 2	Ireland v Croatia	Dublin
June 2	Bulgaria v Macedonia	Sofia
June 2	Russia v Poland or Turkey	Moscow
June 4	Germany XI v Liechtenstein	Mannheim
June 5	France v Armenia	Lille (tbc)

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS: JUNE 8-30



SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —



BEACH WORLD CUP WATCHED BY 8000



Brazil for the second consecutive time won the beach Football World Cup, after a convincing 3-0 victory over neighbours Uruguay in the final played at Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana Beach in front of more than 8,000 spectators.

Temporary stands are erected on the world-famous beach for these games. The game is played in three sessions with five on each side.

Former Brazilian international star Zico (left) opened the account in the 10th minute of the first third, while Magal and Nenem, through a

penalty, added the second and third in the 6th and 11th minutes of the third third.

Zico and Junior for Brazil, and Uruguayan goalkeeper Rodolfo Rodriguez were the stars of the match.

BRAZIL: Paulo Sergio, Edinho (Magal, Mauro), Claudio Adao (Junior negao), Junior, Zico (Nenem, Jorginho)

URUGUAY: Rodriguez, Jorge Gonzalez (Mendieta, Carlos Silveira), Hugo De Leon (Ramos), Vargas (Cabrera), Gabriel.

Argentines thrash Danes

The Argentine Under 23 side thrashed Denmark 5-0 in a friendly international played in Mar del Plata.

Hernan Crespo and Hugo Morales, both twice and Pablo Sanchez once scored for Daniel Passarella's squad against a weak European side without ideas.

The Argentines who played several matches as preparation for the South American Pre-Olympic tournament, will make their debut against Ecuador on February 18 in Mar del Plata. The other teams in the group are Venezuela, Colombia and Chile.

The other qualifying group, to be played in Tandil, involves Uruguay, Brazil, Peru, Paraguay and Ecuador.

The first two of each group will qualify for the semi-finals and the winner and runner-up of the final series will go to Atlanta 1996.

briefs... briefs... briefs... briefs...

→ The Costa Rican Under 23 side defeated Venezuela 2-1 in a friendly international played in the Southeastern Venezuelan city of Merida.

→ Uruguayan champion, Penarol, defeated the national side of Armenia, 2-1, in a friendly international played at Maldonado's stadium. Pablo Bengoechea and Antonio Pacheco, scored for the Uruguayans.

It was the debut of Jorge Fossati as coach of Penarol. Fossati who previously guided another Uruguayan first division side, River Plate, replaced Gregorio Perez at the helm of the most popular club in the country.

Gregorio Perez, who took Penarol to win the last three Uruguayan first division championships, in 1993, 1994 and 1995, has gone to South American Supercup champions Independiente of Argentina.

→ In Cochabamba, Bolivia, the local national senior side drew 1-1 with Chile in a friendly international.

→ In Tegucigalpa, the Colombian Under 23 also drew 1-1 with Honduras. Carzon in the 25th scored for Honduras and Angel through a penalty, in the 85th, equalised for the visitors.

→ Ramon Romero, 24, a Uruguayan amateur striker from the country, signed his first professional contract with Ecuadorean Liga Universitaria of Portoviejo. The young forward, the highest scorer of Salto, a regional team from the North of Uruguay, was recommended by Eber Bueno, a former Uruguayan youth international who played for Liga Universitaria.

→ The Venezuelan senior side will play three friendly internationals in Spain against Tenerife, Las Palmas and second division side Mensajero during this month.

→ Uruguay will conduct part of its build up preparation for the South American World Cup qualifying rounds in Costa Rica. The Uruguayans will travel to the Central American country two weeks before their opening match against Venezuela, in Caracas, on April 24.

→ Uruguayan champion, Penarol signed Uruguayan Under-23 international midfielder Alvaro Recoba from Danubio and Fenix's



Enzo Francescoli: South American Player of 1995.

striker H. Puglia, the highest scorer of the Uruguayan second division league in 1995.

Another Penarol signing is former Nacional of Uruguay and Racing of Argentina defender Carlos Soca.

→ Argentine champions Velez Sarsfield defeated San Lorenzo 4-1 in a match for the Mar del Plata Cup. Camps and Pandolfi both scored twice for Velez.

→ Deportivo Cali leads the Colombian national league despite its 0-0 draw against arch-rivals America. In another match Atletico Nacional beat Independiente Santa Fe 3-1.

Deportivo Cali leads with 50 points, followed by Atletico Nacional with 45, America 39 and Tolima 37.

→ Enzo Francescoli was chosen as the best South American player of 1995 by the prestigious Uruguayan newspaper "El Pais". More than 140 Soccer writers from the whole continent participated in the Yearly poll conducted by "El Pais" (More information in future editions).

briefs... briefs... briefs... briefs...

Second Brazilian to Middlesbrough



Ambitious England Premiership side Middlesbrough said last week it was on the verge of signing Brazilian star Claudio Branco.

The 31-year-old former Genoa, Brescia and Porto fullback, who is a free agent after buying out his contract and will cost Boro nothing, trained with the Boro players last week before having contract talks with manager Bryan Robson.

"Branco is keen to join us. He has brought over his wife and she speaks fluent English.

"I have to discuss the finer details of a contract with him and the length of it, whether it should be for the rest of the season or for two years."

South Americans head to Japan

With a 2-1 victory over Ferro Carril Oeste of Argentina, Universidad Catolica said good bye to two of its most talented stars: Argentine midfielder Nestor Gorosito and compatriot striker Alberto Acosta. Both were transferred to the Japanese J-League giant Yokohama Marinos.

The game, played at Catolica's stadium of San Carlos de Apoquindo, in the outskirts of Santiago, attracted 15,000 fans who wanted to be part of the farewell match.

Anibal Gonzalez opened the score for Catolica in the 8th minute, but 12 minutes later Cristian Torres equalised for the Argentine side. The winning goal came in the 25th through striker Luis Ceballos.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the city, at Santa Laura stadium, Chilean champion Universidad de Chile and Defensor Sporting of Uruguay drew 0-0 in another friendly. It was Universidad's third consecutive draw.

Previously they drew 2-2 with International of Brazil and 1-1 with Libertadores Cup champions Gremio also from Brazil.

SAO PAULO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

— February 8 —
FIRST STAGE:

Sao Paulo	4	Guarani	0
Portuguesa	3	Santos	2
Corinthians	2	XV de Jau	0
Ferroviaria	1	Rio Branco	1
Juventus	1	America/Sao Jose	0
Novorizontino	1	Aracatuba	1

TABLE

Portuguesa	4	4	0	0	11	3	12
Corinthians	4	3	1	0	11	2	10
Sao Paulo	4	3	1	0	10	2	10
Palmeiras	3	3	0	0	16	2	9
Santos	4	2	0	2	7	7	6
Juventus	4	2	0	2	4	4	6
Novorizontino	4	1	2	1	4	9	5
America	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Aracatuba	4	1	1	2	3	8	4
Mogi Mirim	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
XV de Jau	4	1	0	3	1	8	3
Botafogo	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Rio Branco	4	0	2	2	3	7	2
Ferroviaria	4	0	2	2	2	9	2
Uniao Sao Joao	3	0	1	2	4	6	1
Guarani	4	0	1	3	2	11	1

WORLD'S TOP 200 CLUBS

(1ST JANUARY — 31ST DECEMBER 1995)

Compiled by the International Federation of Football History and Statistics
Australian delegate: AAP journalist Ted Simmons

POS '94	CLUB	COUNTRY	POS '94	CLUB	COUNTRY
POS		LEVEL	POS		
1. (3.)	Milan AC	(Italy/5)	130. (395.)	Lugano	(Switzerland/2)
2. (7.)	Juventus	(Italy/5)	131. (538.)	Nagoya Grampus Eight	(Japan/2)
3. (13.)	Ajax Amsterdam	(Holland/3)	132. (359.)	Ilhwa	(Korea Republic/2)
4. (32.)	Gremio	(Brazil/4)	133. (171.)	Queen's Park Rangers	(England/4)
5. (2.)	Parma	(Italy/5)	134. (659.)	Rath Rovers	(Scotland/3)
6. (1.)	Paris Saint-Germain	(France/4)	135. (398.)	Atletico Colegiales	(Paraguay/3)
7. (38.)	Deportivo de La Coruna	(Spain/4)	(181.)	America	(Mexico/3)
8. (41.)	River Plate	(Argentina/4)	(141.)	Maritimo	(Portugal/3)
9. (56.)	Bayern Munich	(Germany/4)	(275.)	Guimaraes	(Portugal/3)
10. (20.)	Borussia Dortmund	(Germany/4)	139. (90.)	Aston Villa	(England/4)
11. (128.)	Borussia Monchengladbach	(Germany/4)	140. (240.)	Lokomotive Moscow	(Russia/3)
12. (24.)	Spartak Moscow	(Russia/3)	141. (79.)	FK Austria Vienna	(Austria/2)
13. (147.)	Atletico Medellin	(Colombia/2)	142. (567.)	Compostela	(Spain/4)
(12.)	Real Zaragoza	(Spain/4)	143. (623.)	Neuchatel Xamax	(Switzerland/2)
15. (4.)	FC Barcelona	(Spain/4)	144. (177.)	Koln	(Germany/4)
(205.)	Everton	(England/4)	(75.)	Viktoria Zizkov	(Czech Republic/3)
17. (69.)	Bordeaux	(France/4)	(190.)	Red Star	(Yugoslavia/3)
(219.)	Strasbourg	(France/4)	(89.)	Montpellier	(France/4)
19. (6.)	Porto	(Portugal/3)	148. (237.)	Universitatea Craiova	(Romania/2)
20. (190.)	Real Betis	(Spain/4)	149. (119.)	Nacional	(Uruguay/3)
21. (126.)	Universidad Catolica	(Chile/3)	(411.)	Nacional	(Ecuador/2)
22. (25.)	Feyenoord	(Holland/3)	(134.)	Real Oviedo	(Spain/4)
23. (17.)	Olimpia Asuncion	(Paraguay/3)	(502.)	Bastia	(France/4)
24. (9.)	Lazio	(Italy/5)	(502.)	Rennes	(France/4)
(28.)	Independiente	(Argentina/4)	(192.)	Standard Liege	(Belgium/3)
26. (68.)	Roma	(Italy/5)	(111.)	Lanus	(Argentina/4)
27. (256.)	Nottingham Forest	(England/4)	(90.)	Tenerife	(Spain/4)
(11.)	Nantes	(France/4)	157. (213.)	Hibernian	(Scotland/3)
29. (84.)	Panathinaikos	(Greece/2)	(194.)	Le Havre	(France/4)
(36.)	Club Brugge	(Belgium/3)	(167.)	Santos	(Brazil/4)
31. (138.)	Cerro Porteno	(Paraguay/3)	160. (612.)	Atalanta	(Italy/5)
32. (144.)	PSV Eindhoven	(Holland/3)	(200.)	Levski Sofia	(Bulgaria/2)
33. (77.)	Sporting Cristal	(Peru/3)	(120.)	Verdy Kawasaki	(Japan/2)
(71.)	Slavia Prague	(Czech Republic/3)	(225.)	Racing Santander	(Spain/4)
35. (8.)	Manchester United	(England/4)	(219.)	Freiburg	(Germany/4)
36. (132.)	Rosario Central	(Argentina/4)	165. (72.)	Universitario	(Peru/3)
37. (120.)	Lyon	(France/4)	(213.)	Cruz Azul	(Mexico/3)
38. (246.)	Flamengo	(Brazil/4)	167. (601.)	Vikings Stavanger	(Norway/2)
(124.)	Sparta Prague	(Czech Republic/3)	168. (323.)	Etoile Sportive du Sahel	(Tunisia/2)
40. (21.)	Real Madrid	(Spain/4)	169. (502.)	Sturm Graz	(Austria/2)
41. (14.)	Benfica	(Portugal/3)	(307.)	International Bratislava	(Slovakia/2)
42. (380.)	Hradek Kralove	(Czech Republic/3)	(225.)	Real Sociedad	(Spain/4)
43. (74.)	Lens	(France/4)	172. (104.)	Torino	(Italy/5)
44. (54.)	Sporting Lisbon	(Portugal/3)	173. (138.)	MyPa	(Finland/2)
45. (26.)	Werder Bremen	(Germany/4)	174. (240.)	Deportivo Sipesa	(Peru/3)
46. (395.)	Olympiakos	(Greece/2)	175. (404.)	Aalborg	(Denmark/2)
47. (230.)	Celtic	(Scotland/3)	(114.)	Wimbledon	(England/4)
(171.)	Atletico Mineiro	(Brazil/4)	(194.)	Deportivo Espanol	(Argentina/4)
49. (81.)	Brondby	(Denmark/2)	178. (82.)	Esperance	(Tunisia/2)
50. (50.)	Liverpool	(England/4)	179. (141.)	Zagreb Croatia	(Croatia/2)
51. (19.)	Internazionale	(Italy/5)	(301.)	Lillestrom	(Norway/2)
52. (32.)	Kaiserslautern	(Germany/4)	(301.)	Ujpesti Dozsa	(Hungary/2)
53. (66.)	Corinthians	(Brazil/4)	(171.)	Southampton	(England/4)
54. (73.)	Steaua Bucharest	(Romania/2)	(94.)	Besiktas	(Turkey/2)
55. (105.)	Sevilla	(Spain/4)	(63.)	Celta	(Spain/4)
56. (177.)	Valencia	(Spain/4)	185. (444.)	Toros Neza Hidalgo	(Mexico/3)
(15.)	Auxerre	(France/4)	(249.)	Guadalajara	(Mexico/3)
(15.)	Arsenal	(England/4)	(105.)	AIK Stockholm	(Sweden/3)
(52.)	Palmeiras	(Brazil/4)	188. (188.)	Copenhagen	(Denmark/2)
60. (10.)	Velez Sarsfield	(Argentina/4)	189. (326.)	Yokohama Flugels	(Japan/2)
61. (69.)	Glasgow Rangers	(Scotland/3)	(581.)	GKS Zaglebie Lublin	(Poland/2)
(40.)	Penarol	(Uruguay/3)	(134.)	West Ham United	(England/4)
63. (152.)	Legia Warsaw	(Poland/2)	(162.)	Botafogo	(Brazil/4)
64. (126.)	Chernomorets Odessa	(Ukraine/2)	193. (100.)	Huracan	(Argentina/4)
65. (264.)	Widzew Lodz	(Poland/2)	194. (97.)	Rapid Bucharest	(Romania/2)
66. (581.)	Aalst	(Belgium/3)	(365.)	Sydney United	(Australia/3)
67. (380.)	Halmstads	(Sweden/3)	(308.)	Sportivo Luqueno	(Paraguay/3)
68. (87.)	Elemecc	(Ecuador/2)	197. (264.)	Gymnasia y Tiro Jujuy	(Argentina/4)
69. (30.)	Sampdoria	(Italy/5)	(301.)	Dinamo Bucharest	(Romania/2)
70. (108.)	Alianza Lima	(Peru/3)	(163.)	Schalke 04	(Germany/4)
(177.)	Tottenham Hotspur	(England/4)	(175.)	VfB Stuttgart	(Germany/4)
72. (97.)	Rosenborg	(Norway/2)	(31.)	Eintracht Frankfurt	(Germany/4)
(46.)	Ferencvaros	(Hungary/2)	(152.)	Barcelona Sporting Club	(Ecuador/2)

LEVEL 1
National Class - eg. Luxembourg

LEVEL 2
International Class - eg. Greece

LEVEL 3
Inter Continental Class - eg. Chile

LEVEL 4
World Class - eg. Spain

LEVEL 5
Super World Class - eg. Italy

Results of all official matches - both local and international - are taken into account including all cup competitions. The quality of opposition is also taken into account.

PAST WINNERS

1991 - Roma 1993 - Juventus
1992 - Ajax 1994 - Paris St-Germain

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Before we start on the interviews etc, here's some very important news about the range of flags we can now supply direct from the UK.

Shoulder flags (4ft x 2-3ft approx) are priced at \$29.50 each and car flags (fit all types of car window) are at the very reasonable price of \$26 each.

Some teams have more than style of shoulder flag and this will become apparent.

All flags mentioned are "shoulder flags" plus "car flags" available if followed by an asterisk. "Car flags" come in ONE design only which is different to "shoulder flags".

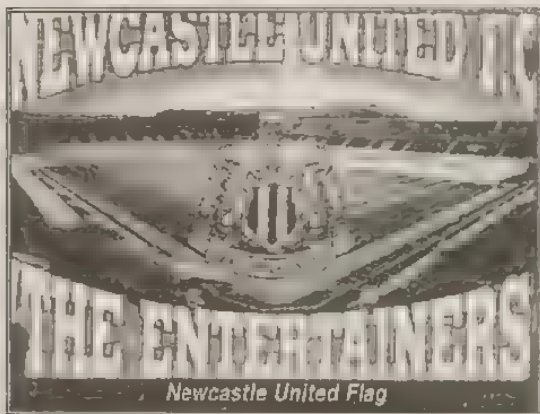
All flags are "Officially Licensed Products" and made to a very high standard of workmanship.

Arsenal Union or Gunners, Aston Villa*, Blackburn* Shield or Kenny, Chelsea, Everton*, Leeds Utd*, Liverpool*, Manchester City*, Manchester United — Greatest (Man Utd Car Flag

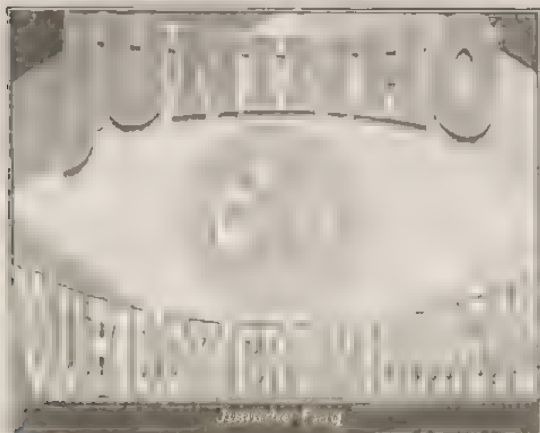
— Shield), Middlesbrough — Robbo, Newcastle — Union or Entertainers, QPR*, Southampton*, West Ham, Aberdeen*, Celtic*, Rangers*, Hearts (Car Flag only), Kilmarnock (Car Flag only), Charlton (Car Flag only), Ipswich*, Luton*, Norwich*, Oldham (Car Flag only), Reading*, WBA (Car Flag only), Sunderland, Bradford*, Bristol Rovers*, Carlisle Utd*, Darlington (Car Flag only), Torquay Utd (Car Flag only), Dundee Utd*, Stenhousemuir, AC Milan, Inter, Juventus, Napoli, Sampdoria, Roma, Lazio, Parma, Real Madrid, Barcelona and Ajax.

As ever the price is \$2 cheaper for AFSA members. Speaking of which, any AFSA member purchasing a video will now receive them at \$7.50 cheaper than non members.

Members price: \$42.50 each, non-members \$50 each. Please make ALL cheques payable to UKSSD please and send to: PO Box 56, Kingsway West, NSW 2208



Newcastle United Flag



Liverpool Flag

Geoff Hurst in Sydney 1996

Twinkle in his eye as he delivered lines

G Geoff Hurst was in town for one night only and as a prelude to some serious answers to serious questions, here's how the night started.

For those that lucky few who were at Blacktown City Soccer Club, a great time was had by all and to help in understanding the following text, please remember that all of this was said "tongue in cheek" and had everyone rolling around in stitches.

Shame you missed it really!

Good evening. It's nice to be here, I've had about a week in Perth which was lovely and a very short stay in Sydney unfortunately, because of my schedule, I have to get back home and I'm really looking forward to the cold weather in England.

I did come out to Australia about 24 years ago.

My impressions of it then were great and there have been enormous changes in that time. But just to start this evening off, I'll talk for about 15 minutes — until the soup comes — and what we'll try to do and to make it fairly inter-active is, after dinner if you'd like to ask any questions, just stick your hand up and we'll have a bit of a chin-wag between the two of us.

Just to up-date you on my career, when you're a player you're not bothered about statistics but when you finish you like to look back and think "well I've had a reasonable career", so I've made a note of it: I had 20 years with West Ham Utd, Stoke City and finally West Bromwich Albion, a career record of 633 first class matches, 286 goals, very fortunate to win 49 caps for my country with 24 goals.

Oh and as I seem to recall, I scored a hat-trick in a World Cup final!

I'm very mindful of the soup coming so I won't keep you too long and to time myself I've brought along my new George Graham watch which has three hands...big hand, little hand and back hand!

Just a little bit of up-dated information, Bruce Grobelaar, who is a goalkeeper at Southampton is reported as allegedly taking up to 40-50 thousand pounds per game to fix matches in the UK.

I was asked by a tabloid newspaper around June/July last year, to look at the three or four videos where he allegedly took lots and lots

of money to throw these matches.

A very serious crime in football terms in the UK and anywhere in the world for a player to throw a match.

They gave me these four videos and I had a very good opportunity to look at it from a "strikers" point of view, where his positions were for corners, free-kicks and general shots on goal and crosses.

I slowed them down, freeze framed them and had a really good look and quite frankly, hand on heart, I never had a problem with any of the games he allegedly threw. But in that collection of videos they gave me, they gave me another video that incorporated a game in which he played for his club (Southampton) at Arsenal during that season.

doing so well.

I was talking to Harry Redknapp just before the start of the season, July in fact, just before the season started and I said to him: "What about football at Upton Park this year Harry?" and he said: "Good idea, that'd be nice!"

In fact they tell me they've just got a second hand mini-bus for the first team squad...pause...yeah, I thought that was quite a good swap too!

We transferred a player to Liverpool about 18 months ago and we've got him back now at West Ham.

A very dear, very kind, very honest, loveable and friendly left back called Julian Dicks. He came into the West Ham dressing room last week with a nasty leg, about a six inch gash on the

won the game.

Kevin Keegan the manager was absolutely fuming. He locked them in the dressing room for about an hour after the game and berated them very badly and warned them that if they didn't pull their fingers out, he would in fact bring some new faces into the club.

Peter Beardsley immediately raised his hand and said: "Boss, can I have one?"

We've all heard about Eric Cantona, who's one of the best players in my opinion and has been in the UK for a long time, but did you hear that a couple of days ago he was banned from playing in European football for 15 years?

He's just signed for Manchester City!

Just going back to the old

London about 10-12 years ago.

If you're familiar with it, there's a very large concourse and I picked up my wife and three daughters and we're walking across it when I became vaguely aware of some layabouts, vagabonds were overnight "sleep rough" in the station.

As I walked about 10-12 paces, one of them came across to me and said: "We recognise you, you're Roger Hunt."

I always play along with it and never take myself seriously and always play it very straight with people, and I just said: "No I'm not". He looked slightly puzzled and went back to his chums, had another chin-wag and the second guy came up and said: "We got you now, we know who you are...Martin Peters." I said: "No, but you're getting warm, he was my West Ham club mate."

He went back to his pals and the third chap came up and offered: "We know who you are, we definitely know who you are, you're Geoff Hurst."

"Right" I said. "Fantastic" he replied "you're the bloke who scored three goals, a hat-trick, in the World Cup final when we beat the Germans." I said: "That's right". He replied: "I was away at the time".

I said: "Anywhere nice, Bournemouth, Spain on holiday?" His answer: "Well no, I was in Pentonville Prison". "Oh, how is it?" I asked. "Fantastic. When we won the World Cup we had a great celebration and we smashed all the bloody cells up!"

More next week but Geoff is certainly a great character, very eloquent when speaking and has a twinkle of devilment in his eye.

Well done to Gary Williams for his continual promotion of UK football and players in Australia — you may have heard Geoff mention that a series of "coaching clinics" are being arranged for this year involving Tony Teboah (Leeds), Trevor Morley and Gary Shaw (ex-Aston Villa) and a certain young man who has been mildly successful in his career — Jason Smith.

Well done to the sponsors taking the photos for me and to S... Luans for... sponsor of the evening.



Micky Brock and Geoff Hurst: Seen at Blacktown City Soccer Club on February 3.

During the course of the second half, Arsenal had a corner from the right wing position and Bruce Grobelaar came so far out of his penalty box, he collided with the Arsenal goalkeeper, Dave Seaman!

In fact, Bruce is the only goalie that I know who has an answer phone in the back of his net and if you ring you'll hear: "Hi, my name's Bruce Grobelaar and I'm out of the area at the moment. But if you leave your name, and number and suggested scoreline, I'll get back to

I shouldn't take me mickey out of Bruce or his club Southampton, because my club, West Ham, who I dearly love and was at for 15 years — 1981-96 — are not

calf, stud marks down the shin and it had blood from knee to ankle...he didn't have a clue who is belonged to!

Any Arsenal fans here by the way? (Brookie gets pointed out). Oh there is...did you know they're having a four million pound clear-out at Highbury? Paul Merson's just blown his nose!

Any Newcastle fans? It looks like they're going to win the first division for the first time in a very long time although they in fact had a problem playing Southampton last year, it was quite a noticeable game.

Newcastle were leading at the Dell with about five minutes to go and in the last five minutes Southampton scored about three goals and

days, we were very fortunate to have some great players in that era. People like Bobby Moore, Martin Peters etc. What a lot of people have asked me over the past 30 years, which we'll probably come to later on, are the players fitter today, faster and are they stronger?

But if you take Vinnie Jones for example (please), he can TRAP a ball much further than I can kick it! Think about that one...

A lot of people talk to me, especially in the UK, about where they were on that great day we had in 1966 and what they were doing.

The best story I recall, and there have been hundreds over the years, happened to me when I picked my family up from Euston station in

Things looking up for Paul Ince



Paul Ince: Delighted at being called into England training camp.

England midfielder Paul Ince plans to stay put in Italy despite constant rumours that the former Manchester United star was unsettled at Inter Milan and set to return to Britain.

An injury could not spoil the 28-year-old's delight at returning to the international scene after seven months in the wilderness, via Terry Venables' training camp last month.

Ince, who admitted he had struggled to settle at Inter after his move from Old Trafford in the summer, insisted things were looking up for him on the club front as well.

Ilford-born Ince, now playing under English manager Roy Hodgson at

the San Siro, told BBC Radio 5 Live: "I've signed a three-year contract here and I intend seeing it out."

"Things are very good now that Mr Hodgson has come here and there is no reason for me to want to leave."

"I'm settling in well and things are looking up."

"It was a little difficult at first because no matter what job you do, you know the first few months are going to be hard — especially if you don't speak the language. "But the fans here have been fantastic. They love their football with a passion."

"They love me, I love them and it's just great."

"The most important thing when you go to a club

is to win the fans over. Once you have done that then you can play with confidence."

Ince netted 12 goals in 95 games for West Ham before his move to Manchester United in September 1989.

He became a firm favourite with the Old Trafford fans, scoring 28 goals in 281 appearances and helping United win the European Cup Winners' Cup and European Super Cup in 1991, the Premiership (1993 and 1994), FA Cup (1990 and 1994) and League Cup (1992).

Things began to turn sour when he was charged with threatening behaviour and assaulting a spectator at Selhurst Park during the infamous Eric Cantona

fracas in January last year, although he was later cleared in court.

But there was genuine surprise when the move to Milan was first mooted, not least from Ince himself.

Having made his England debut in 1992, Ince became the first black captain of his country against Brazil the year after and won 16 caps before pulling out of the squad for last summer's Umbro Cup in the wake of his court appearance.

His call-up for the training camp, which significantly boosted his chances of appearing in this summer's European Championship, suggested Venables also believes Ince is settling down in Italy.

Premier League Team

ARCHIVES

ASTON VILLA

BY STUART JONES

Mark Bosnich (G) — Born 13.01.72 in Fairfield Sydney, Mark's story is fairly well known by Australians. He had a stint at Sydney Croatia (United) and appeared for Manchester United before visa problems forced him back to Australia. Returned to the UK and joined Villa as second keeper behind Nigel Spink until forcing him out. Played 76 league games for Villa before the start of this season.

Gary Charles (D) — Born London in 1970. Charles was a trainee at Nottingham Forest for whom he appeared 56 times in the league scoring a solitary goal. He also went to Leicester on loan during this time. Charles moved to Derby before moving to Aston Villa last season. Represented England against New Zealand and Malaysia in 1991.

Alan Wright (D) — Born Ashton under Lyne in 1971. Wright started his career with the orange men (not Holland, Blackpool). He then moved to Blackburn where he played 74 times before his latest move to Villa.

Paul McGrath (D) — Born Greenford in 1959. Left St Patrick's Athletic for Manchester United where he played 163 times in the league (12 goals). He then moved to Villa where up to this season he had played 223 times with seven goals (in the league). Those dodgy knees have held up very well...He has made nearly 80 appearances for the Republic of Ireland and has been a key man in Jack's (Charlton) campaigns.

Ugo Ehiogu (M) (Most commentators nightmare player — just how do you pronounce it?) (D) — Born London in 1972. He appeared twice for WBA before moving to Villa and becoming a vital member of the Villa back four. Has participated in England squads although yet to win full cap.

Ricardo Scimeca (D) — Born Leamington Spa in 1975. Came through the Villa youth ranks as a trainee.

Steve Staunton (D) — Born Drogheda in 1969. He played for Dundalk before moving to Liverpool playing 65 league games for them and had a loan spell at Bradford City. He moved to Villa but has recently suffered a spate of injuries. Irish international player.

Ian Taylor (M) — Born Birmingham in 1968. Played for Moor Green before moving to Port Vale. Moved to Sheffield Wednesday for a short spell 14 league games, before moving to Villa where he is a squad player (ie is warming the bench much of the time this season).

Gareth Southgate (M) — Born Watford in 1970. First club Crystal Palace where he became their youngest captain and the youngest captain in the Premier League last season. Budding journalist, Southgate moved to Villa in the off season.

England international player for the first time this season.

Mark Draper (M) — Extremely talented player born Long Eaton in 1970. Played 222 times for Notts County before moving to rivals Leicester where he had an outstanding season in a struggling side last year. Joined Villa in the off season and is still the midfield player. England honours not far off surely.

Andy Townsend (M) — Born Maidstone in 1963. Played for non league Weymouth before being picked up by Southampton. He then moved to Norwich and then a move to London where he played for Chelsea. His last move was to Villa. he has captained his last two clubs.

An Irish international player, Townsend is a strong midfield player.

Savo Milosevic (F) — Yugoslav player who has joined Villa this season replacing Saunders who went to Turkey. Probably most famous at Villa for his bandanna in Villa colours.

Dwight Yorke (F) — Born Tobago in 1971. He has played as a winger for Villa in recent seasons. However this season he has been used most successfully as an out and out striker. Trinidad and Tobago international player.

Tommy Johnson (F) — Born Newcastle in 1971. This Geordie actually started his career as a trainee at Notts County. He then played in 98 league games for Derby County (alongside Gary Charles also now at Villa) scoring 30 goals before moving to Villa.

Out of the shadows now Saunders and Atkinson have left for Turkey.

MANAGER — Brian Little whose previous clubs include Darlington (who he took out of the Conference and back into League football) and Leicester (who he took to the playoffs for PL status and finally won them in 1994) he controversially walked out of both clubs finally arriving at Villa where he was a former player. As long as Deadly Doug Ellis is not crossed, Little can feel as safe as any manager can with his team's performances.



PAUL MCGRATH



SAVO MILOSEVIC

RATINGS OF ENGLISH GROUNDS

TEAM	LUTON	MANCHESTER CITY	MANCHESTER UNITED
GROUND	Kenilworth Road	Maine Road	Old Trafford
ADDRESS	1 Maple Road Luton Beds LU4 8AW	Moss Side Manchester M14 7WN	Manchester M160RA
CAPACITY	9,975	28,053	30,000
RECORD GATE	30,069 (1959)	84,569 (1934)	76,962 (semi FA Cup 1939) Man Utd 70,504 (1920)
DEBUT	1905	1923	1910
BY RAIL	Luton	Manchester Picadilly	Warwick Road BR
COMMENTS	Squashed ground that is out of time. The new super stadium was a nice idea on paper but like many others will not happen. They need a new ground — now! Problems are hindering them.	Fantastic, now stand complete. One of the best in the PL and the best in Manchester!	Did not give the aura of Anfield. Historic and huge but that's it. Looks great inside but on the outside it looks almost tacky.
ACCESSIBILITY RATING /5	3.5	3.5	4
OVERALL GROUND RATING /10	3.5	9.5	8

Newcastle get their man

Italian club Parma completed a deal with Newcastle that will take Colombian World Cup striker Faustino Asprilla to the English Premier League leaders, Parma's lawyer announced last week.

"The negotiations are finally over. The player now belongs to Newcastle," said the lawyer, Leandro Cantamessa. He said the deal had been concluded at the original price of \$A13.49 million.

Cantamessa said all outstanding issues concerning Asprilla's transfer had been ironed out in more than four hours of talks.

"There were problems with Asprilla's residence permit which have been resolved by the English authorities," Cantamessa said.

Asprilla's move to Newcastle had been beset with problems on both sides and appeared to have fallen through when Parma said the English club had raised doubts about his fitness.

Cantamessa and Newcastle's chief executive Freddie Fletcher subsequently said the problems arose from misunderstandings.

Stanislaus sacked

Leyton Orient defender Roger Stanislaus, banned from soccer for a year for doping, was sacked by his English third division club last week.

The 27-year-old player tested positive for cocaine, regarded as a performance enhancing drug, in a random drugs test after a league match in November.

He was suspended by the English Football Association at a hearing on February 1 and his punishment was the stiffest handed down by the FA in more than 30 years.

Leyton Orient chairman Barry Hearn said he felt the one-year ban was a lenient one and the board had no alternative to a sacking to preserve the good name of the club and the game.



Man. United star on two charges

Manchester United star Nicky Butt (above), already awaiting trial on an allegation of assault, has been charged with causing criminal damage, police announced last week.

Midfielder Butt, one of United's most promising talents, is alleged to have caused damage amounting to \$A500 to a car outside a nightclub on February 4.

The incident allegedly happened outside a nightclub in the Manchester suburb of Altrincham when 21-year-old Butt was understood to have been celebrating with teammates following a victory against Wimbledon.

Butt was allowed police bail and would appear before Trafford Magistrates Court on March 11.

The Reds midfielder is at present awaiting trial at Manchester Crown Court on a charge that he assaulted a man in a Chinese restaurant in October 1995.

VENABLES MUST STAY

Bobby Charlton, one of English soccer's favourite sons, has urged the Football Association (F.A.) to persuade Terry Venables (right) to carry on as England coach.

Venables is quitting after the European Championship finals to concentrate on a number of legal battles later in the year.

Charlton, a member of England's 1966 World Cup-winning side, said:

"Terry should be told that he's wanted up to the 1998 World Cup. It will be too late if we bring



somebody else in from scratch when we're trying to qualify for France.

"He is an excellent

coach, somebody who is accepted and respected by the players.

"Even if he has his personal problems — and they could mean he's stuck in court later this year — I really believe that if he feels he's wanted by the F.A., the public and the press he'll want to go on with the job.

"The F.A. is a big and unwieldy organisation and takes a long time to make a decision but some things have to be done quickly...I think he would change his mind if he thought he was wanted."

CRASH TO EARTH

South Africa's Lucas Radebe and Phil Masinga came down to earth with a bump last week after helping their country win the African Nations' Cup.

The pair were given a dressing down by Howard Wilkinson,

manager of their English club Leeds United, for returning from South Africa 24 hours later than scheduled.

South Africa beat Tunisia in the Nations' Cup final in Johannesburg on February 4.

Sport on Pay TV given thumbs down

Britain's upper house of parliament struck a blow last Tuesday for the right of millions of sports fans to see key events on regular television channels when it amended a government bill by a huge majority.

Members of the non-elected House of Lords said they were speaking for the majority of Britons who could not afford to pay a \$A614.49 annual subscription to media tycoon Rupert Murdoch's (right) BSkyB satellite broadcasting sports channel, which has bought the exclusive rights to several major sports events.

They carried the amendment, placing a duty on the Independent Television Commission to ensure a number of listed events were not shown exclusively on satellite television, by 223 votes to 106.

The eight "listed" events are: the Olympics, soccer's World Cup, the FA Cup and Scottish Cup soccer finals, domestic cricket Test matches, Wimbledon, the Grand National steeplechase and the English Derby, both horse races.

This would mean people could see them on the BBC or Independent Television at no extra cost over and above the annual television licence fee of less than \$A204.83.

The government, which says it wants time



to consult on the question of sport on television, could attempt to reverse the amendment when its Broadcasting Bill reaches the House of Commons.

But peers were confident that the government would take notice of the huge swell of opinion against Sky getting monopoly rights to major sports events.

Tomas Brolin disappoints



Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson admitted last week he was disappointed with the play of Swedish star Tomas Brolin (above), the club's record \$A9.11 million signing.

Brolin, who joined Leeds with much fanfare in November, was dropped from the lineup for the February 4 3-0 defeat at Aston Villa.

While Wilkinson denied reports of a rift with Brolin, he acknowledged that the striker had not been performing up to expectations.

"He has not settled into Premiership football as well as everyone would have liked," the manager said. "He has not produced the sort of form of which we all know he is capable."

"I had only 15 players to choose from at Villa Park and I left Brolin out. It was a straightforward matter of selecting the team I thought had the best chance of obtaining a good result."

Bassett in second stint with Palace

Dave Bassett was named as the new manager of English First Division club Crystal Palace last Thursday — 12 years after his first stint in the same job ended after just four days.

Bassett, 52, takes over from Ray Lewington who will become first team coach and ironically, Bassett's first match in charge last Saturday was at home to Sheffield United — the club he left by mutual consent in December.

He first lasted only four days in May 1984 when he followed current Palace chairman Ron Noades from Wimbledon to Selhurst Park, changed his mind, and went back to Wimbledon. Palace never played a game under his control.

Bassett and Noades were largely responsible for Wimbledon's rise from non-League obscurity to the very top division of English soccer in the late 1970s and mid-1980s, with Bassett the boss on the pitch and Noades the boss in the boardroom.

Now they are hoping to get Palace back into the premier league after the club was relegated last year. Palace is currently 16th in the table, but only 10 points off third place in a very tightly-bunched division.

Yorkshire man boss of Ireland

Mick McCarthy, 37, was last week confirmed as the new manager of the Republic of Ireland team.

McCarthy became the clear favourite for the job once Wimbledon's Joe Kinnear ruled himself out of the running. His appointment was confirmed by Millwall chairman Peter Mead.

He was recommended to the Football Association of Ireland by Jack Charlton, whose nine-year reign ended in December after the Republic's 2-0 defeat by Holland for the last remaining place in this summer's European Championship finals.

Like Charlton, McCarthy was

born in England, the son of a coalminer.

McCarthy's father, Charles, hailed from Tallow, County Waterford, in the south-west of Ireland but he was forced to move to Yorkshire in search of work.

Unlike Charlton, he actually played for the Republic, winning the first of 57 caps against Poland in 1984 and the last against Portugal in 1992.

He captained the side at the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy.

As a central defender, he began his league career with his hometown club Barnsley and also played for Manchester City, Celtic, Lyon and Millwall.

McCarthy's dedication to the Irish cause was soon apparent — he chose to travel with the Irish squad to Japan in June 1984 instead of attending his brother's wedding as best man. "I was in the dog-house then," said McCarthy.

Now his task is to at least emulate his mentor by taking Ireland into the World Cup finals of 1998.

Charlton took the Irish to the World Cup for the first time in Italy in 1990.

McCarthy spent four years as manager of Millwall, which is likely to be compensated for the remainder of his contract.

His first match in charge will be

away to the Czech Republic in March, followed by Russia at home in April.

McCarthy then has a testimonial match against Celtic in Dublin on May 28.

It is believed Kenny Dalglish, Blackburn's former manager and now director of football at Ewood Park, was first choice to replace Charlton among several members of the FAI hierarchy.

But Blackburn blocked a request to officially approach the former Liverpool and Scotland star.

Ex-Sheffield United manager Dave Bassett and former players Ronnie Whelan and Kevin Moran were also linked with the post.



ERICSSON CUP MATCHES THIS WEEK

ROUND 20



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS
v
CANBERRA COSMOS
BREAKERS STADIUM - 7:30PM



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

MORWELL FALCONS
v
SYDNEY UNITED
MORWELL FALCONS PARK - 7:00PM



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

MARCONI FAIRFIELD
v
UTS OLYMPIC
MARCONI STADIUM - 7:00PM



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

BRISBANE STRIKERS
v
WOLLONGONG CITY
SUNCORP STADIUM - 7:00PM



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
v
ADELAIDE CITY
MELB. CROATIAN SPT CENTRE - 7:00PM



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

WEST ADELAIDE
v
SOUTH MELBOURNE
HINDMARSH STADIUM - 7:30PM



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